



Washington State Fusion Center INFOCUS



TUESDAY — 14 JUN 2022

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HEADLINE	06/14 Cruise ships back in Seattle
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/covid-or-no-cruise-ships-are-all-the-way-back-in-seattle/
GIST	<p>After being cooped up in her Bonney Lake home for much of the pandemic, Earlene Smith was ready to cruise again.</p> <p>Hoping for some normalcy and fresh air, she joined her husband, sister and brother-in-law on a Royal Caribbean cruise to Alaska for eight days in May, round-trip from Seattle.</p> <p>“The cruise staff were very welcoming,” Smith said. “It was good energy.”</p> <p>The ship left on a Monday. By Thursday, her brother-in-law was feverish, achy and coughing. He’d caught COVID-19, and they still had about half the trip to go.</p> <p>Even with precautions onboard, COVID infections like the one that Smith’s brother-in-law contracted are not a rare occurrence on cruises. As of Friday, 85 of 93 cruise ships in U.S. waters have reported at least one case of COVID onboard, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.</p> <p>The cruise industry, however, is returning and more ships are sailing from Seattle. The Port of Seattle forecasts that about 265 vessels will sail in 2022, compared to 82 last year. The Port estimates the 2022 season, which ends in October, will have an economic impact of \$900 million.</p> <p>The comeback is ramping up despite warnings from the CDC. When the highly transmissible omicron variant drove up case counts in December, the CDC cautioned against cruise travel, regardless of a traveler’s vaccination status.</p> <p>In May, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky said during a U.S. Senate hearing that COVID cases on cruises increased 30-fold in two weeks. That same month, passengers reported that a COVID outbreak overwhelmed a Carnival Cruise Line ship that docked in Seattle.</p> <p>On Sunday, Holland America, a Seattle-headquartered subsidiary of Carnival, put its last Alaska-bound ship, the Westerdam, to sea, and its entire fleet is operating again. In total, Holland America has six ships sailing from Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., to Alaska. At maximum capacity, they carry more than 210,000 passengers at a time. Of that total, 75,000 passengers sail from Seattle alone, according to the company.</p> <p>Holland America President Gus Antorcha said the cruise line’s health precautions align with federal, state and local safety guidelines. Cruises are a heavily regulated industry, he said, making them one of the safest ways to travel at the moment.</p> <p>“I find it hard to believe any reasonable person would look at the procedures we have onboard and not feel quite safe,” Antorcha said.</p> <p>Holland America said it requires all travelers to be fully vaccinated and recommends masking, especially indoors. Cruise ship crews leave notes on basic protocols and extra masks at guests’ cabins. About 6% of cabins are designated for quarantine isolation if a passenger tests positive for COVID.</p> <p>Smith said her brother-in-law isolated in the couple’s room, where he remained for the rest of the trip. Smith also said her group could not bring him food. Cruise staff sent him meals instead.</p> <p>All lines that visit the Port of Seattle participate in the CDC’s voluntary COVID-19 program for cruise ships, according to Public Health – Seattle & King County. The program includes guidelines on contact tracing, quarantining and vaccination requirements.</p>

While Royal Caribbean participates in the CDC program, Smith said it appeared the staff was confused about testing protocols. Contact tracing was thorough, she said. But when her group was about to leave the ship in Seattle, the crew didn't know if her sister, who had been closest with Smith's brother-in-law before he tested positive for COVID, should test again before disembarking.

"They refused to test her," Smith said.

Royal Caribbean said in a statement that it has had "historically high guest satisfaction scores" and that "the health and safety of our guests, crew members and communities we serve is our top priority."

While CDC guidelines cover what may happen when the boat is sailing, they do not cover what happens when it docks. As part of the agency's program, cruise lines are required to establish agreements with local health agencies.

In Seattle, each line has to have arrangements with a local medical provider and quarantine facilities, such as hotels. That way, according to Public Health – Seattle & King County, medical, isolation and quarantine facilities aren't strained by shipboard outbreaks.

The quarantine period for Smith's brother-in-law wasn't over when they arrived in Seattle. After waiting about three hours to disembark, he hopped on a van, with other people she suspected had COVID, to a hotel, Smith said.

For Adrian Johnson, who went on a seven-night cruise to Alaska on Royal Caribbean's Alaska Glacier, the trip was good until the final night. The crew was friendly and always masked, and the health protocols were reassuring.

He traveled with his girlfriend, his girlfriend's mother and sister-in-law and his two sisters. On the last night on the ship, Johnson started feeling feverish. He had a inkling it was COVID, but he decided to get tested when he got home in Ballard a few hours later.

His at-home test result was positive for COVID. Out of the six people in his group, five were infected with the coronavirus, Johnson said.

He said he's not sure when he was infected. His group tried to distance themselves from other people as much as they could, though that was impossible at the casino and the theater, where only a few people wore masks, Johnson said.

A spokesperson for Royal Caribbean declined to comment about concerns raised by Smith or Johnson.

Smith said she didn't know of other cases on her trip.

Cruise lines generally don't tell passengers where there has been a COVID infection onboard. A Holland America representative said a federal health information privacy law prevents them from doing so.

Despite the COVID case in her group, Smith said this won't stop her from going on more cruises going forward.

"This is our third Alaskan cruise and we've taken several in the Caribbean," she said. "I was glad to get back to something that resembled normalcy a little bit."

Johnson said he won't be hopping on a cruise ship again while COVID is still around.

"We had such a good time," Johnson said. "It's disappointing."

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SOURCE	https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2022/06/14/taiwan-china-tensions-strait-united-states/8411655197011/
GIST	<p>June 14 (UPI) -- Taiwan on Tuesday called China's claim of sovereign rights over the Taiwan Strait a "fallacy" and said it supported U.S. naval ships conducting freedom of navigation exercises in the waterway.</p> <p>In a statement, Taiwan's Foreign Ministry reiterated that "the Taiwan Strait is international waters" and said that areas outside of Taipei's jurisdiction "are subject to the principle of 'freedom of the high seas' of international law."</p> <p>The U.S. Navy regularly sends warships through the strait and is occasionally joined by allies including Canada, Britain and France.</p> <p>"We understand and support the benefits of the U.S. mission of freedom of navigation in promoting peace and stability in the region," the Taiwanese statement said.</p> <p>The ministry added that Beijing's rejection of international law makes its hostile intentions toward the democratic, self-governing clear.</p> <p>"China's ambition to annex Taiwan is obvious," the statement said.</p> <p>Taiwan's remarks came in response to Beijing's recent public assertions about the waterway.</p> <p>Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said Monday that China has "sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction" over the Taiwan Strait and blamed the United States for "undermin[ing] cross-Strait peace and stability."</p> <p>China views Taiwan as a wayward province and has vowed to take it by force if necessary.</p> <p>The democratic island of 23 million has become perhaps the main point of contention in the relationship between Beijing and Washington, as concern about China's intentions grows in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which is in its fourth month.</p> <p>Beijing has ratcheted up military provocations over the past several months, with frequent incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone and combat training exercises near the island -- a practice Taipei calls "gray zone" warfare, meant to strain its defense capabilities and wear down its morale.</p> <p>At a regional defense forum in Singapore over the weekend, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin met with Chinese counterpart Gen. Wei Fenghe and expressed concerns about the Chinese military's "unsafe, aggressive, unprofessional behavior," according to a Pentagon readout.</p> <p>Austin also suggested that Beijing "may be attempting to change the status quo through its operational behavior."</p> <p>For his part, Wei doubled down on China's commitment to taking control of Taiwan by any means necessary.</p> <p>"If anyone dares to secede Taiwan from China, we will not hesitate to fight," Wei told the forum in an address on Sunday. "We will fight at all costs and we will fight to the very end. This is the only choice for China."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Ruble fresh highs against dollar, euro
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/ruble-nears-three-week-high-vs-euro-stocks-down-2022-06-14/

GIST	<p>June 14 (Reuters) - The Russian rouble hit three-week highs against the euro and U.S. dollar in volatile trading on Tuesday, continuing to climb despite recent interest rate cuts and a looming economic crisis.</p> <p>At 1210 GMT, the rouble had gained 3.6% to 57.94 against the euro, its strongest level since May 25. Against the dollar, the rouble added 1.5% to trade at 55.99 close to multi-year peaks.</p> <p>The Russian currency has been supported by capital controls that Russia imposed in late February after sending tens of thousands of troops into Ukraine, though the recent strength has triggered policymakers to rethink their economic response to Western sanctions.</p> <p>After the rouble became the world's best-performing currency, authorities eased capital controls and scrapped a requirement for export-focused companies to convert their foreign-currency revenues.</p> <p>The central bank's decision to cut its key rate to the pre-crisis level of 9.5% last week was also designed to ease upside pressure on the rouble.</p> <p>A strong rouble dents the incomes of exporters and Russia's budget but is beneficial for importers, making foreign goods and services cheaper. However, Russian imports have waned drastically due to unprecedented western sanctions and disrupted logistics chains.</p> <p>Sberbank CIB analyst Yuri Popov said higher foreign exchange sales by exporters in order to meet domestic tax obligations were supporting the rouble on Tuesday.</p> <p>Hard currency savings have also "started losing their appeal as Russian banks introduced fees for servicing accounts in currencies of 'unfriendly' countries," Popov added in a research note.</p> <p>The Moscow Exchange said on Tuesday it would suspend trading the Swiss franc against the U.S. dollar and the rouble due to the sanctions Switzerland has imposed on Russia from June 10.</p> <p>Russian stock indexes were up slightly after starting the day weaker.</p> <p>The dollar-denominated RTS index (.IRTS) was up 1.7% at 1,290.1 points, after slumping 2% in early morning trading. The rouble-based MOEX Russian index (.IMOEX) gained 0.2% to 2,290.3 points.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Europe officials sound alarm: Covid surge
SOURCE	https://arstechnica.com/science/2022/06/eu-warns-of-ba-4-ba-5-uprising-braces-for-next-wave-of-cases/
GIST	<p>Omicron subvariants BA.4 and BA.5 are on the rise in the European Union, spurring officials there to warn that a surge of COVID-19 cases will likely follow in the coming weeks.</p> <p>In an alert Monday, the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control cautioned that various factors would influence how bad the expected BA.4/BA.5 wave will be. Those factors include the extent of vaccination and past infection in the population, as well as timing since those events because protection from both wanes over time.</p> <p>BA.4 and BA.5 are clumped together because they share the same mutations in the genetic coding for their spike proteins, though they have differing mutations elsewhere in their genome. Both have a transmission advantage over the initial omicron subvariant, BA.1, as well as subvariants BA.2 and BA.2.12.1.</p> <p>So far, there's no indication that BA.4 or BA.5 cause more severe infections than the currently circulating omicron subvariants—specifically BA.2 and BA.2.12.1. But, the pair appear better able to evade immune protection from vaccines and prior omicron infections, possibly leading to more breakthrough infections.</p> <p>"As in previous waves," the ECDC writes, "an increase in COVID-19 cases can result in a rise in hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths."</p>

Rising subvariants

BA.4 and BA.5 were first seen in South Africa in January and February and arrived in the EU in March. Recently, its spread has picked up speed. Portugal is the first EU country to see a wave, with BA.5 accounting for 87 percent of cases as of May 30. Now, BA.4 and BA.5 are increasing in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, and Sweden.

In Belgium, BA.5 accounted for 19 percent of samples recently, and BA.4 accounted for 7.5 percent. In Spain, BA.4 and BA.5 accounted for more than 10 percent. In the Netherlands, BA.5 reached 8 percent recently, while BA.4 was close to about 5 percent.

The US is facing a similar outlook: BA.4 and BA.5 are gaining ground close on the heels of BA.2.12.1, which achieved dominance in the US just at the end of May. Currently, BA.2.12.1 accounts for an estimated 62.2 percent of US cases, while BA.4 accounts for 5.4 percent, and BA.5 is at 7.6 percent, according to [the latest data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). Less than a month ago, the pair were accounting for about 2 percent of cases collectively.

The pair have significant potential to spur a new wave of infection in the US. Though more than 28 million Americans were infected amid the BA.1 wave that peaked in January, BA.4 and BA.5 can evade BA.1-derived neutralizing antibodies. And while the Food and Drug Administration in March authorized a second COVID-19 booster dose for those ages 50 and above, only 15 million people in that age group got a second booster so far. That's about 25 percent of people who received the first booster. Only 47 percent of fully vaccinated people in all age groups—about 104 million—received a first booster since last fall.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Global nuclear arsenals expect to grow
SOURCE	https://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20220613-global-nuclear-arsenals-are-expected-to-grow
GIST	<p>The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the findings of SIPRI Yearbook 2022, which assesses the current state of armaments, disarmament and international security. A key finding is that despite a marginal decrease in the number of nuclear warheads in 2021, nuclear arsenals are expected to grow over the coming decade.</p> <p>Signs That Post-Cold War Decline in Nuclear Arsenals Is Ending</p> <p>The nine nuclear-armed states—the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea)—continue to modernize their nuclear arsenals and although the total number of nuclear weapons declined slightly between January 2021 and January 2022, the number will probably increase in the next decade.</p> <p>Of the total inventory of an estimated 12 705 warheads at the start of 2022, about 9440 were in military stockpiles for potential use. Of those, an estimated 3732 warheads were deployed with missiles and aircraft, and around 2000—nearly all of which belonged to Russia or the USA—were kept in a state of high operational alert.</p> <p>Although Russian and US total warhead inventories continued to decline in 2021, this was due to the dismantling of warheads that had been retired from military service several years ago. The number of warheads in the two countries’ useable military stockpiles remained relatively stable in 2021. Both countries’ deployed strategic nuclear forces were within the limits set by a bilateral nuclear arms reduction treaty (2010 Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, New START). Note, however, that New START does not limit total non-strategic nuclear warhead inventories.</p> <p>‘There are clear indications that the reductions that have characterized global nuclear arsenals since the end of the cold war have ended,’ said Hans M. Kristensen, Associate Senior Fellow with SIPRI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Program and Director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS).</p>

‘All of the nuclear-armed states are increasing or upgrading their arsenals and most are sharpening nuclear rhetoric and the role nuclear weapons play in their military strategies,’ said Wilfred Wan, Director of SIPRI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Program. ‘This is a very worrying trend.’

Russia and the USA together possess over 90 per cent of all nuclear weapons. The other seven nuclear-armed states are either developing or deploying new weapon systems, or have announced their intention to do so. China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear weapon arsenal, which satellite images indicate includes the construction of over 300 new missile silos. Several additional nuclear warheads are thought to have been assigned to operational forces in 2021 following the delivery of new mobile launchers and a submarine.

The UK in 2021 announced its decision to increase the ceiling on its total warhead stockpile, in a reversal of decades of gradual disarmament policies. While criticizing China and Russia for lack of nuclear transparency, the UK also announced that it would no longer publicly disclose figures for the country’s operational nuclear weapon stockpile, deployed warheads or deployed missiles.

In early 2021 France officially launched a program to develop a third-generation nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN). India and Pakistan appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, and both countries introduced and continued to develop new types of nuclear delivery system in 2021. Israel—which does not publicly acknowledge possessing nuclear weapons—is also believed to be modernizing its nuclear arsenal.

North Korea continues to prioritize its military nuclear program as a central element of its national security strategy. While North Korea conducted no nuclear test explosions or long-range ballistic missile tests during 2021, SIPRI estimates that the country has now assembled up to 20 warheads, and possesses enough fissile material for a total of 45–55 warheads.

‘If the nuclear-armed states take no immediate and concrete action on disarmament, then the global inventory of nuclear warheads could soon begin to increase for the first time since the cold war,’ said Matt Korda, Associate Researcher with SIPRI’s Weapons of Mass Destruction Program and Senior Research Associate with the FAS Nuclear Information Project.

Mixed Signals from Nuclear Diplomacy

There were several landmarks in nuclear diplomacy during the past year. These included the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021, having received the required 50 state ratifications; the extension for five years of New START, the last remaining bilateral arms control agreement between the world’s two leading nuclear powers; and the start of talks on the USA rejoining, and Iran returning to compliance with, the Iran nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

During 2021, the nuclear-armed permanent members (P5) of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA—worked on a joint statement that they issued on 3 January 2022, affirming that ‘nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought’. They also reaffirmed their commitment to complying with non-proliferation, disarmament and arms control agreements and pledges as well as their obligations under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and pursuing the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

Despite this, all P5 members continue to expand or modernize their nuclear arsenals and appear to be increasing the salience of nuclear weapons in their military strategies. Russia has even made open threats about possible nuclear weapon use in the context of the war in Ukraine. Bilateral Russia–USA strategic stability talks have stalled because of the war, and none of the other nuclear-armed states are pursuing arms control negotiations. Moreover, the P5 members have voiced opposition to the TPNW, and the JCPOA negotiations have not yet reached a resolution.

‘Although there were some significant gains in both nuclear arms control and nuclear disarmament in the past year, the risk of nuclear weapons being used seems higher now than at any time since the height of the cold war,’ said SIPRI Director Dan Smith.

A Mixed Outlook for Global Security and Stability

The 53rd edition of the SIPRI Yearbook reveals both negative and some hopeful developments in 2021. “Relations between the world’s great powers have deteriorated further at a time when humanity and the planet face an array of profound and pressing common challenges that can only be addressed by international cooperation,” said Stefan Löfven, Chair of the SIPRI Governing Board.

In addition to its detailed coverage of nuclear arms control and non-proliferation issues, the latest edition of the SIPRI Yearbook includes insight on developments in conventional arms control in 2021; regional overviews of armed conflicts and conflict management; in-depth data and discussion on military expenditure, international arms transfers and arms production; and comprehensive coverage of efforts to counter chemical and biological security threats.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Judge: 2 Seattle cops disregard truth
SOURCE	https://www.axios.com/local/seattle/2022/06/13/seattle-cops-reckless-disregard-truth-judge
GIST	<p>A judge is standing by his 2021 ruling that two Seattle detectives acted with reckless disregard for the truth in obtaining a search warrant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• That decision could damage the detectives' ability to testify as witnesses in other criminal cases, the police department says. <p>Why it matters: Our criminal justice system relies on the assumption that police will tell the truth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If an officer makes false or deceptive statements, it can skew a case against a defendant — or even lead to a wrongful conviction. <p>Driving the news: Last Friday, the Seattle Police Department went to court to ask a judge to consider revising his October ruling that found that two Seattle detectives, Terry Bailey and Benjamin Hughey, were untruthful.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In that ruling, King County Superior Court Judge David Whedbee said that Bailey and Hughey engaged in "chicanery" when they left important information out of a search warrant application. <p>At Friday's hearing, however, Whedbee rejected the city's attempt to get him to take back his findings, saying it's not his job to tailor his rulings to avoid hurting the careers of law enforcement officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• "The court has no control over what might happen downstream," Whedbee said.• That leaves Hughey and Bailey with a finding of untruthfulness on their records, which defense attorneys can now use in court to cast doubt on the detectives' word. <p>What they're saying: Neither Bailey nor Hughey responded to Axios' attempts to contact them for this story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A spokesperson for the Seattle Police Department, Patrick Michaud, wrote in an email to Axios that the department "maintains its support for these detectives, who SPD believes conducted a lawful investigation and at all times responded truthfully to the questions posed." <p>Context: Whedbee's October 2021 ruling found that Bailey and Hughey lacked credibility when they said they didn't see a white latex glove next to a clear, plastic baggie in the door of a suspect's car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In seeking a search warrant for the car, the detectives said the bag appeared to have a whitish substance inside, which they said looked like crack cocaine.• Later investigation revealed there was no such substance in the baggie.• Whedbee said the detectives' failure to mention the white, latex glove was a material omission that ignored the non-drug-related explanation for why the area around the baggie might have had a whitish appearance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The judge's ruling said "the Court does not believe" the detectives' statements that they didn't see the white glove. • That's partly because video footage shows both detectives examining the area for at least 30 seconds — a search the judge said was conducted without a warrant — following an earlier examination by Bailey. <p>The other side: The King County Department of Public Defense previously asked prosecutors not to rely on testimony from officers who have been found to be dishonest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "It is impossible to overstate the impact officers have on people's lives," wrote department director Anita Khandelwal in a statement to Axios. "We are fortunate that the judge in this case called out the actions of the officers." <p>What's next: The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office says it has tentatively placed Hughey and Bailey on a list of officers whose credibility issues must be disclosed to defense attorneys.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term placement on what is commonly known as the Brady list is one of the "extraneous, negative consequences" the detectives face as a result of the judge's ruling, Assistant City Attorney Jessica Leiser wrote in a recent court filing. • Among other things, placement on the list can limit officers' ability to testify in pending cases, the police department said. • According to the prosecutor's office, the detectives are potential witnesses in more than 60 cases right now.
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HEADLINE	06/14 Ukraine forest mass grave exhumation
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/business/police-investigating-killings-of-12000-ukrainians-in-war/
GIST	<p>BUCHA, Ukraine (AP) — The lush green beauty of a pine forest with singing birds contrasted with the violent deaths of newly discovered victims of Russia's war in Ukraine, as workers exhumed bodies from another mass grave near the town of Bucha on Kyiv's outskirts.</p> <p>The hands of several victims were tied behind their backs. The gruesome work of digging up the remains coincided with the Ukrainian police chief's report that authorities have opened criminal investigations into the killings of more than 12,000 people since Russia's invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.</p> <p>Workers wearing white hazmat suits and masks used shovels to exhume bodies from the soil of the forest, marking each section with small yellow numbered signs on the ground. The bodies, covered in cloth and dirt, attracted flies.</p> <p>"Shots to the knees tell us that people were tortured," Andriy Nebytov, head of the Kyiv regional police, said at the scene. "The hands tied behind the back with tape say that people had been held (hostage) for a long time and (enemy forces) tried to get any information from them."</p> <p>Since the withdrawal of Russian troops from the region at the end of March, authorities say they have uncovered the bodies of 1,316 people, many in mass graves in the forest and elsewhere.</p> <p>The horrors of Bucha shocked the world after Russian troops left. The mass grave that reporters saw Monday was just behind a trench dug out for a military vehicle. The bodies of seven civilians were retrieved. Two of the bodies were found with their hands tied and gunshot wounds to the knees and head, Nebytov said.</p> <p>National police chief Igor Klimentko told the Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Monday that criminal investigations into the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians included some found in mass graves. He said the mass killings also were done by snipers firing from tanks and armored personnel carriers. Bodies were found lying on streets and homes, as well as in mass graves.</p> <p>He didn't specify how many of the more than 12,000 were civilians and how many were military.</p>

Complete information about the number of bodies in mass graves or elsewhere isn't known, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy told the American Jewish Committee on Sunday. He cited the case of two children who died with their parents in the basement of an apartment building in Mariupol in a Russian bombing. Zelenskyy, who is Jewish and lost relatives in the Holocaust, asked:

"Why is this happening in 2022? This is not the 1940s. How could mass killings, torture, burned cities, and filtration camps set up by the Russian military in the occupied territories resembling Nazi concentration camps come true?"

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HEADLINE	06/13 Familiar viruses acting in unfamiliar ways
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/06/13/covid-flu-rsv-viruses/
GIST	<p>At one point last month, children were admitted to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital with a startling range of seven respiratory viruses. They had adenovirus and rhinovirus, respiratory syncytial virus and human metapneumovirus, influenza and parainfluenza, as well as the coronavirus — which many specialists say is to blame for the unusual surges.</p> <p>"That's not typical for any time of year and certainly not typical in May and June," said Thomas Murray, an infection-control expert and associate professor of pediatrics at Yale. Some children admitted to the hospital were co-infected with two viruses and a few with three, he said.</p> <p>More than two years into the coronavirus pandemic, familiar viruses are acting in unfamiliar ways. Respiratory syncytial virus, known as RSV, typically limits its suffocating assaults to the winter months.</p> <p>Rhinovirus, cause of the common cold, rarely sends people to the hospital.</p> <p>And the flu, which seemed to be making a comeback in December after being a no-show the year before, disappeared again in January once the omicron variant of the coronavirus took hold. Now flu is back, but without one common lineage known as Yamagata, which hasn't been spotted since early 2020. It could have gone extinct or may be lying in wait to attack our unsuspecting immune systems, researchers said.</p> <p>The upheaval is being felt in hospitals and labs. Doctors are rethinking routines, including keeping preventive shots on hand into the spring and even summer. Researchers have a rare opportunity to figure out whether behavioral changes like stay-at-home orders, masking and social distancing are responsible for the viral shifts, and what evolutionary advantage SARS CoV-2 may be exercising over its microscopic rivals.</p> <p>"It's a massive natural experiment," said Michael Mina, an epidemiologist and chief science officer at the digital health platform eMed. Mina said the shift in seasonality is explained largely by our lack of recent exposure to common viruses, making us vulnerable to their return.</p> <p>In hospitals across the country, physicians are adjusting protocols that for decades reflected a predictable cycle of illnesses that would come and go when schools closed or the weather changed.</p> <p>"You would see a child with a febrile illness, and think, 'What time of the year is it?' " said Peter Hotez, a molecular virologist and dean for the National School of Tropical Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.</p> <p>For years, Theresa Barton, head of pediatric infectious diseases at University Health in San Antonio, has routinely championed the flu vaccine each fall and relaxed her advocacy by March and April, when the flu fizzled out. The new shift in seasonality, with flu cases rising last summer and then again this spring, made her rethink.</p> <p>"You are like, 'Oh man!' in clinics. 'Let's get your flu shot,' " Barton said.</p>

She and other infectious-disease specialists are also revisiting their response to RSV, a common virus that hospitalizes about 60,000 children younger than 5 each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It can create deadly lung infections in preemies and other high-risk infants. The typical treatment for them is monthly shots of a monoclonal antibody, palivizumab, from around November through February. But last summer, RSV suddenly surged and this year it is causing trouble in May and June. Infectious-disease experts are carefully tracking cases so that they are prepared to reactivate the pricey protocol.

“We monitor the number of cases so that if it exceeds a number, we are ready,” Murray said. The Yale hospital, which typically holds meetings to prepare for upswings in fall through spring, is preparing pandemic-fatigued staffers for out-of-season surges.

Even common colds seem a little more virulent and tenacious, according to Richard Martinello, a specialist in respiratory viruses at Yale School of Medicine.

“When people are getting colds, they do seem to be a little worse,” he said, emphasizing that so far the evidence is largely anecdotal.

The changes — and how and when they may revert to normal — reflect shifts in our own behavior during the pandemic as well as the interplay between SARS CoV-2 and other viruses, known as viral interference.

We evolved alongside pathogens, and our regular contacts with them usually allow our immune systems to reup the response without making us very sick.

The system has “enough memory to make it more like a good hearty booster than a bad infection,” Mina said.

The moment you stop seeing a virus on this regular cadence, as happened during the pandemic, that natural balance is upset, Mina said. The extraordinary measures we took to limit exposure to the coronavirus — necessary steps to contain a deadly new foe — also limited our exposure to other viruses. If you do get exposed to a virus again once too much time has passed, you may not be able to protect yourself as well, leading to out-of-season surges across the population and surprisingly virulent infections for individuals.

That, Mina and others say, is what happened once people doffed their masks and started gathering indoors. Viruses began circulating out of season because population immunity was low even if other conditions for them were not optimal.

“All of these decisions have consequences,” Murray said. “You do the best you can with the information you have.”

The same process of immune memory is already well-documented by other phenomena, Mina said, like 35- and 40-year-olds getting shingles, a reactivation of the chickenpox virus that typically affects older adults or people with weakened immune systems.

Before the advent of vaccines against chickenpox, people were typically infected as children and then had a series of natural boosting events throughout their lives, rebooting their immunity as they made contact with infected friends and then their own children and their children’s friends.

Now that those children are protected, they are not providing their parents with those natural boosts, making those adults vulnerable to the virus once again in the form of shingles.

That phenomenon will be short-lived, as younger people who are protected by the chickenpox vaccine age and won’t be at risk of getting shingles.

While vaccines disrupt the viral landscape by restricting the spread of infections, during the pandemic an entirely new virus — SARS Cov-2 — is doing so by interacting with its more common rivals.

It's not yet clear whether the drop in flu cases in January, for example, was caused entirely by people retreating from one another again as omicron spread or whether the coronavirus acted to push aside its more common rival through some other mechanism.

"It's a wonderful question, whether omicron pushed it out," said Xiaoyan Song, chief infection control officer at Children's National Hospital in the District. Even more mysterious is the role covid played in knocking Yamagata out of play. When the flu did return this spring, that lineage was nowhere to be found.

Ellen Foxman, an immunobiologist at the Yale School of Medicine, has spent years exploring how viruses interact and which genetic and environmental factors mean the same virus may cause a cold in one person and make another very sick.

It's a high-tech enterprise, using cells from the nose and lung to grow human airway tissue in the lab before infecting it with viruses, along with environmental contaminants like cigarette smoke.

Studying the lining of the nasal passages has given insights into what's known as innate immunity. Once those cells detect a virus, they turn on antiviral defenses, blocking other viruses. That process may help explain why the much-anticipated twindemic of the coronavirus and other viruses, likely inhibited by remote work and masking in the winter of 2020 to 2021, still did not occur this past winter, despite sporadic co-infections.

The cohort of babies born over the past two years will yield a lot of information. Normally a child younger than 5 has on average a virus in his or her nose 26 out of 50 weeks of the year. Serious RSV and rhinovirus infections in those early years are associated with the development of asthma later in life.

"Those kids did not have infection at a crucial time of lung development," Foxman said, making them key to understanding the relationship between the viral infection and asthma.

Still, it's not clear what the future holds, as covid settles in among us.

"It's going to take time and even years to see what the new balance is going to look like," Martinello said.

Mina anticipates that the coronavirus will, like other respiratory viruses, fall into a pattern of seasonal circulation once population immunity increases, decreasing what is known as the "force of infection."

"When you have a lot of people who don't have immunity, the impact of the season is less. It's like free rein," Mina said. The virus "can overcome seasonal barriers."

All those shifts will be affected by other environmental factors, Barton says, as climate change alters seasonal weather patterns.

Despite those ongoing uncertainties, for many researchers the upheaval caused by the pandemic has reinforced known strategies for preventing infection.

Scott Hensley, a microbiologist at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, is not convinced that the Yamagata flu is gone forever. It may still be circulating, undetected, at very low levels, he said, ready to pop back on the scene. Still, there's a tried-and-true method of protecting ourselves — through vaccination.

"Even in years when vaccines are mismatched, there is some level of protection," Hensley said, "preventing hospitalizations and deaths."

For Foxman, the lab scientist, the pandemic's silver lining has been the way it will advance science.

	<p>Even as she continues to invest in high-tech experiments in her lab, Foxman says the biggest lesson the pandemic has taught her about stopping the spread of viral infections comes from simple shifts in behavior, like masking, which she thinks should be continued in strategic circumstances.</p> <p>“We need to carry some of the lessons we learned forward,” Foxman said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 China zero-Covid mass testing bet
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/06/13/china-covid-testing-companies/
GIST	<p>Under pressure from ever-more-transmissible coronavirus variants, China’s “zero covid” policy is increasingly relying on testing on a massive scale to avoid socially disruptive and economically disastrous lockdowns like the one enforced in Shanghai for most of this spring.</p> <p>But the push for constant swabbing comes with its own heavy costs. Because coronavirus testing is centralized (no home tests) and is mostly publicly funded, the soaring demand for items such as testing kits and sample-collection booths has strained local government finances and created quality and corruption scandals from poorly regulated testing companies.</p> <p>As problems mount, test providers are fast becoming a lightning rod for regulator scrutiny and public discontent, once again raising questions about the sustainability of the Chinese government’s determination to prevent all community spread of the disease, even as most of the world is learning to live with the virus.</p> <p>“It’s pretty obvious that local governments are facing mounting fiscal pressure, with revenue falling and expenditure rising due to the recession,” said Zhao Dahai, executive director of the Shanghai Jiao Tong University-Yale Joint Center for Health Policy. “Regular testing is going to make it worse.”</p> <p>The mass-testing theory goes that authorities in localities deemed at risk of a coronavirus outbreak can avoid shutting down whole cities, the way Shanghai was, by testing everyone every few days to quickly identify affected areas for lockdown.</p> <p>By avoiding citywide restrictions, mass testing is meant to be the less costly — and less unpopular — option. Officials say the idea is to catch cases earlier and to control spread sooner. Done well, it would allow local governments to keep businesses open and leave daily life uninterrupted.</p> <p>Yet, many localities struggle to pay for the necessary testing build-out or do the necessary oversight for an industry that has expanded massively in a short period of time.</p> <p>Last week, six government departments jointly released notices announcing “rectification” of problematic coronavirus-related medical products and testing infrastructure. The announcement came after Beijing city authorities penalized 12 testing companies over pricing and quality issues. Executives in two companies were also detained on suspicion of illegal testing, in a move that was widely interpreted as sending a signal to other companies to get their operations in order.</p> <p>“I don’t think it’s just Beijing — quality problems must be more widespread in third-party coronavirus testing,” Zhao said. “When you lower standards, there will surely be more inaccuracies and quality and safety problems.”</p> <p>The ability to provide free mass testing has been cited by officials as evidence of the efficiency of Chinese governance. In April, Li Jinming, deputy head of the National Center for Clinical Laboratories, told journalists that China was the only country in the world that can carry out testing at such scale, adding that China had conducted 11.5 billion tests since the start of the pandemic.</p>

And China is far from done expanding its testing infrastructure. Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, who leads much of the day-to-day pandemic response, has urged cities facing outbreaks to ensure residents are never more than a 15-minute walk from a testing site.

All these sites cost money, however, and many municipalities are facing major budget deficits that could eventually threaten their ability to fund social services and pay public sector salaries.

Health authorities initially relied on the \$534 billion state medical insurance fund to cover coronavirus expenses, which should have been ample to cover testing costs. But the National Healthcare Security Administration later clarified that only hospitalized individuals could claim testing fees, saddling local governments with the vast majority of the costs.

The Chinese leadership, too, has indicated that its hands are tied, with Premier Li Keqiang telling local governments last month during an emergency teleconference to ease fears over the economy that they shouldn't count on the treasury to bail them out unless they are facing a major disaster.

That puts local authorities in a bind. Mounting local government debt is reaching dangerously high levels in many parts of the country, reaching 30 trillion yuan (\$4.45 trillion) in 2021 for the first time, more than double 2016 levels.

The annual cost of regular coronavirus testing could run as high as \$252 billion, or 1.5 percent of China's 2021 nominal gross domestic product, if a regime of 48-hour testing were adopted across the country's 49 biggest cities, according to an estimate by Soochow Securities. (Another more conservative estimate by Soochow put the cost at no less than \$40 billion, assuming a needs-based approach was adopted.)

In a sign of financing bottlenecks, some hospitals have faced delayed or incomplete payment for their testing. A public hospital director in Xian in Shaanxi province who spoke on the condition of anonymity said in an interview that it hasn't received payment for mass testing this year and the fees last year were not paid in full, with the government citing a tight budget for public financing.

The Economic Observer newspaper last week also published an article questioning whether it was necessary for a province with very few cases to spend an estimated \$89 million to buy coronavirus testing booths, which cost about \$7,000 each. The piece was later taken down.

Tight funds have also led to corners being cut, with complaints about testing booths being hastily built and badly designed and companies hiring underqualified employees.

Cao Heping, an economist at Peking University, said that amid the lack of supervision, there is a lot of profit to be made and a high risk of corruption. The proliferation of online accusations about testing-related graft suggests to Cao that there remain serious public concerns about "under-supervised companies capitalizing on a public health crisis and unaccounted-for taxpayers' money."

Significantly, despite the recent surge in testing demand, investors aren't seeing the testing companies as a sound investment out of fears they are based on an unsustainable bubble created purely by what could prove a short-lived political objective.

Wang Haijiao, managing partner of Shenzhen-based GTJA Investment Group, says he has not and will not invest in the companies that only do coronavirus testing, because their profitability relies entirely on a pandemic policy that could well change.

He pointed out that facilities are often idle, waiting for the next outbreak. "Investors unanimously agreed that the pandemic is ending shortly, so we have put all covid-related profits down as one-off windfalls and never evaluated such coronavirus testing companies," he said.

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SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/travel/2022/06/13/europe-airport-cancellations-explainer/
GIST	<p>At London’s Heathrow Airport, some passengers said they were arriving to hours-long immigration lines. In Dublin, stacks of delayed luggage lined terminal walls, the Irish Independent reported, some from flights that arrived a week earlier. For Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport, Dutch carrier KLM temporarily canceled all incoming European flights, later apologizing for stranding passengers there last weekend.</p> <p>Just as summer travel kicks off and the United States lifts its coronavirus testing requirement for arriving international passengers, many European airports are suffering major disruption.</p> <p>“The majority of people who are traveling in the United Kingdom or in the European Union will have undisrupted flights,” said Rory Boland, the travel editor at Which magazine. “That being said, this is the most disruption we have ever seen, and it is significant.”</p> <p>Here’s what you need to know about the problems at European airports.</p> <p>What’s going on?</p> <p>There were indications that British airports were having problems delivering bags as early as March and April, said Henry Hartevelt, a travel industry analyst at Atmosphere Research Group. But the problems have grown in scale and magnitude.</p> <p>In May, passengers reported that check-in and security lines at Amsterdam’s Schiphol airport were so long that they were waiting for hours outside before even entering the terminal. This month, that’s happening in Stockholm and Dublin.</p> <p>A shortage of security agents in Britain has left passengers stranded in line in London, Manchester and other airports, leading airlines to cancel dozens of flights. The CEO of Ryanair, a budget carrier, suggested “bringing in the army” to alleviate the logjams; British authorities quickly rejected the idea, according to the Guardian.</p> <p>Similarly long lines have been reported by passengers arriving at immigration checkpoints in London, Amsterdam and elsewhere. And once they get through, there’s no guarantee their bags will be waiting for them — baggage handlers are also in short supply, meaning days-long delays in getting luggage to customers in some cases.</p> <p>Why are things so bad?</p> <p>Like many industries, airlines and airports laid off employees during the pandemic and are struggling to return to prior staffing levels, according to Boland. The air travel industry faces extra hurdles because new hires often need to wait for security credentials or specialized training.</p> <p>Low pay at many European airports and airlines make it hard to compete for workers with other industries, Boland said.</p> <p>Those working conditions have also led to strikes among airport workers in Paris and air traffic controllers in Italy in recent weeks, Bloomberg News and Reuters reported, each leading to hundreds of flight cancellations.</p> <p>All of this has coincided with “pent-up demand” for travel — a surge in passengers that “caught [the industry] off guard,” said Peter Vlitas, executive vice president of partner relations at Internova Travel Group.</p> <p>“I don’t think anyone predicted we would go this fast,” he said.</p> <p>How long will this go on?</p> <p>“The problem with this is it’s not an issue that’s easy to solve,” Boland said. “So if you’re looking ahead to the summer holidays, we are almost certainly going to continue to see significant disruption because there simply aren’t enough staff.”</p>

Even as companies sweeten their offers to recruit employees, the labor shortage may continue for several months, he predicted.

Harteveldt said that even though conditions are improving each week, the problems at European airports could last into fall or winter.

Analysts are uncertain how the removal of the United States' pre-departure testing requirement on Sunday will have on Europe's travel woes. It could be a catalyst for even more travel, as travelers who were worried about a positive coronavirus test stranding them in Europe may now feel free to fly. On the other hand, it could help relieve congestion in terminals, as some airlines required United States-bound travelers to stand in line and have their test results manually reviewed, according to Harteveldt.

What should I know to be prepared?

If you're planning a trip to Europe, here's a few tips from travel experts:

Check airport and airline websites at least a day in advance. Some airports post updates to their websites on crowding levels or other disruptions, which lets you plan when to arrive or even whether to consider rebooking your flight.

Arrive an extra hour or two early. While airlines typically recommend arriving two hours early for an international flight, it's best to allow for three or four hours at European hubs this summer, Harteveldt said. "If you miss your flight, you may not be able to get home for several days because flights are so full and airlines are not operating as many flights between Europe and the U.S. as they were before covid," he said. Even fast-track or priority lanes for business and first-class travelers are taking longer than usual.

Carry on luggage if you can. Because of the shortage of baggage handlers, avoid having your trip derailed by a delayed or lost piece of luggage. If you do need to check your bag, bring a few sets of clothes and any medications with you on board.

Book with ample time for connections. Don't forget that you may need to clear immigration — and, in some cases, security again — when connecting through European hubs. Be sure to factor in unpredictable wait times at passport control.

Consider a European airline. According to Boland, European airlines often offer better consumer protections than their U.S. counterparts on the same routes. "If you face a significant delay or disruption, you are probably going to be paid several hundred dollars in compensation if you're with that European or U.K. airline," he said.

Bring a jacket. In an acknowledgment that check-in lines can stretch outside the terminal building, Amsterdam airport recommends [bringing a coat](#) for the wait.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Ohio will arm more teachers
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/2022/06/13/ohio-armed-teachers-guns-uvalde/
GIST	<p>As Congress wrestles over gun control, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) signed into law a bill Monday that would arm more schoolteachers by reducing training requirements for staffers to carry guns on campus.</p> <p>The move comes in the wake of a shooting in Uvalde, Tex., where a teenager opened fire on a pair of classrooms, killing 19 fourth-graders and two teachers. DeWine said in a Monday news conference that while House Bill 99 was in the works last year, "That heartbreaking school shooting certainly increased the urgency to enact it."</p>

Ohio already permits schoolteachers to be armed, but they need the permission of their school board and 700 hours of training as a peace officer. In the news conference Monday, DeWine said school staff who want to carry weapons will be required to have at least 24 hours of training.

“My office worked with the General Assembly to remove hundreds of hours of curriculum irrelevant to school safety and to ensure training requirements were specific to a school environment and contained significant scenario-based training,” DeWine said in a news release earlier this month.

Shari Obrenski, president of the Cleveland Teachers Union, called the effort to arm teachers “ironic,” as it comes after state lawmakers sought to ban how teachers talked about race in classrooms.

“Educators are being told we are not trusted to decide what to teach in the classroom, a job we study for and are licensed to do,” she said in testimony to state lawmakers last month. “But we are trusted to have loaded guns around children with far less training than is required to drive a car.”

Firearms are generally banned on school campuses, except when they are carried by law enforcement or security guards. But several states also exempt school employees from those prohibitions, requiring varying levels of approval and training, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. In Texas, for example, school boards can sign off on any school staff member with a concealed carry license to be armed on campus. It also has a separate school marshals program that trains school personnel who want to be armed on campus on how to react to school shootings.

Proposals to arm schoolteachers have proved unpopular with teachers and their unions, which say that it is dangerous and unfair to expect teachers to battle active shooters. In Ohio, the Fraternal Order of Police also opposes the bill.

The Fraternal Order of Police’s government affairs director, Mike Weinman, weighed in on an earlier version of the bill last year, saying, “It’s not enough training.”

“We go through hundreds of hours of training and a lot of that is on how not to use our weapons,” Weinman said, according to the Columbus Dispatch.

The practice of arming teachers is far from widespread, but many major school shootings have inspired more districts and states to adopt it. In the aftermath of the 2018 shooting in Parkland, Fla., President Donald Trump called for arming 20 percent of teachers.

“A teacher would have a concealed gun on them. They’d go for special training and they would be there and you would no longer be a gun-free zone,” Trump said. He suggested that an armed teacher on campus could reach a school shooter faster than responding police officers. “You’d have a lot of people that would be armed, that’d be ready.”

While several schools expanded the number of educators it armed, Trump’s proposal — to arm more than 600,000 teachers — never came to pass.

Florida passed a law that year permitting educators to be armed, naming the program after a teacher slain at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High. A school shooting in Texas that occurred just a few months after Parkland inspired the state, which already permitted certain school staff to be armed, to create a school marshal program to train armed staff to respond to school shootings.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Court rules against detained immigrants
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/13/supreme-court-immigrants-bond-hearings/
GIST	The Supreme Court on Monday twice ruled against detained immigrants who seek release hearings while they fight deportation orders.

In one decision, the court said federal law does not require a bond hearing after six months of detention for those who can show they fear persecution if returned to their home countries. And in the second, it said undocumented immigrants with similar cases cannot band together as a class to seek relief, but must pursue their cases individually.

The rulings came as the court begins a sprint to try to clear its docket by the end of the month or early July. A controversial ending is in store, as the justices still must rule on cases involving [religious rights](#), [gun control](#), the power of the federal government to combat [climate change](#) and the future of the [constitutional right to abortion](#). More decisions are expected Wednesday.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor figured prominently in both immigration cases decided Monday.

She [wrote the majority opinion](#) about how federal law does not require bond hearings for those detained. But she dissented in the second, saying it will “leave many vulnerable noncitizens unable to protect their rights.”

The first case was brought by Antonio Arteaga-Martinez, a Mexican citizen who repeatedly entered the United States unlawfully. He most recently did so in 2012, saying he had been beaten violently by members of a criminal street gang. He had lived in the country for six years and was expecting the birth of his first child when U. S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) issued a warrant for his arrest.

An asylum official found credible Arteaga-Martinez’s story that he would be persecuted or tortured if returned to Mexico, but the man was detained while waiting for an immigration judge to consider his request to put off his deportation. After four months, Arteaga-Martinez said he should be released while his case was considered because he was not a flight risk or danger to the community.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit eventually agreed, saying immigrants such as Arteaga-Martinez deserved a bond hearing after six months of detention.

Sotomayor said that was a mistake. “There is no plausible construction” of the federal law at issue, Sotomayor wrote, “that requires the Government to provide bond hearings before immigration judges after six months of detention, with the Government bearing the burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that a detained noncitizen poses a flight risk or a danger to the community.”

She added that there is nothing in the law that *prevents* the government from offering such hearings.

Sotomayor and Justice Stephen G. Breyer said there might be hope for Arteaga-Martinez on an issue that had not been raised in lower court. The court decided in *Zadvydas v. Davis* in 2001 that the government may not detain immigrants indefinitely. If deportation was not likely in the “reasonably foreseeable future,” immigrants should be released unless there is good reason to detain them, the court concluded.

Justice Clarence Thomas, on the other hand, said the case “illustrates why we should overrule *Zadvydas* at the earliest opportunity.” He was joined in the sentiment by Justice Neil M. Gorsuch.

The conservative justices were in the majority in the second case, [which was decided 6 to 3](#).

In that case, the court overturned a ruling of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, which said it was proper for federal courts to impose broad “class-wide injunctive relief” for similarly situated immigrants who had been detained for more than six months.

But the Biden administration appealed and Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. said federal law limits judges to deciding the claims of the individuals in front of them.

	<p>Alito said the text of the law passed by Congress limited relief by judges to “an individual alien.” Therefore, “injunctive relief on behalf of an entire class of aliens is not allowed.”</p> <p>He was joined by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., as well as Thomas, Gorsuch and Justices Brett M. Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett.</p> <p>Sotomayor wrote for herself and fellow liberals Breyer and Elena Kagan.</p> <p>She said the majority reaches its conclusion “in a purportedly textualist opinion that, in truth, elevates piecemeal dictionary definitions and policy concerns over plain meaning and context.”</p> <p>She said “contextual and historical evidence demonstrates that the enacting Congress would not have prohibited classwide relief simply by using the word ‘individual.’ ”</p> <p>The dueling interpretations of dense text in federal immigration law pointed out another problem, Sotomayor said.</p> <p>Those covered by the law are often unaware of federal law or fluent in English, she said. “Even so, these individuals must navigate the Nation’s labyrinthine immigration laws without entitlement to appointed counsel or legal support,” she wrote.</p> <p>“Class litigation not only enables individual class members to enforce their rights against powerful actors, but also advances judicial economy by eliminating the need for duplicative proceedings pertaining to each class member,” Sotomayor wrote.</p> <p>The cases are <i>Johnson v. Arteaga-Martinez</i> and <i>Garland v. Aleman Gonzalez</i>.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Navy censures general, others in disaster
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2022/06/13/navy-secretary-censures-general-joseph-osterman/
GIST	<p>The Navy Department has issued letters of censure to five military officers, including a retired three-star general, in response to a disaster at sea that killed eight Marines and a U.S. sailor, officials said Monday.</p> <p>Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, who oversees the Navy and Marine Corps, took punitive action after reviewing a military investigation into the sinking of an amphibious assault vehicle off the California coast in July 2020. The investigation found that insufficient training, complacency by Marine Corps officers, and a delayed, chaotic rescue effort contributed to the nine deaths.</p> <p>Del Toro censured some officers who were removed from their jobs shortly after the sinking, but expanded culpability to include Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Osterman, who was about to step down and retire the day the disaster occurred. Osterman was “responsible for mitigating the inherent risks in operations and training,” Del Toro wrote, and “did not fully appreciate the potential negative impact” of the coronavirus pandemic on the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, which fell under his command.</p> <p>“The Marine Corps requires its leaders to accomplish the mission, even in seemingly insurmountable circumstances,” Del Toro wrote in his letter to Osterman, dated Sunday. “You failed to identify and mitigate the human, material, and training failures that resulted in this mishap. Accordingly, you are censured for failing to effectively ensure appropriate levels of training and material readiness in units under your command.”</p> <p>The other officers censured include Marine Col. Christopher Bronzi, then-commanding officer of the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit; Navy Capt. Stewart Bateshansky, who oversaw an amphibious task involved; Navy Capt. John Kurtz, then-commanding officer of the USS Somerset; and Lt. Col. Keith Brenize, then-</p>

	<p>commanding officer of the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion. All held leadership roles, and Kurtz oversaw the ship from which the vehicle was launched while at sea.</p> <p>Navy Capt. Jereal Dorsey, a spokesman for Del Toro, said in an email that the secretary decided to make the decision after a “careful review of the command investigations and discussions with senior leaders” within the Navy Department.</p> <p>The censured officers could not immediately be reached for comment.</p> <p>The Marine Corps previously found that the 35-year-old armored vehicle — designed to carry Marines ashore in combat — suffered numerous leaks and came from a fleet of vehicles that was in bad condition. Strains created by the pandemic complicated the training schedules of the Marines involved, the service found.</p> <p>The dead included Pfc. Bryan J. Baltierra, 18, of Corona, Calif.; Lance Cpl. Marco A. Barranco, 21, of Montebello, Calif.; Pfc. Evan A. Bath, 19, of Oak Creek, Wis.; Navy Hospitalman Christopher Gnem, 22, of Stockton, Calif.; Pfc. Jack Ryan Ostrovsky, 21, of Bend, Ore.; Lance Cpl. Guillermo S. Perez, 20, of New Braunfels, Tex; Cpl. Wesley A. Rodd, 23, of Harris, Tex.; Lance Cpl. Chase D. Sweetwood, 18, of Portland, Ore.; Cpl. Cesar A. Villanueva, 21, of Riverside, Calif.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Car rentals amid pandemic shortage
SOURCE	https://www.wired.com/story/car-rental-pandemic-shortage/#intcid=wired-verso-hp-trending_53426721-a1c4-40ee-b0fc-089d7b18c3ee_popular4-1
GIST	<p>THREE JUNE DAYS exploring the roads around Rome in a rented Fiat 500: \$276. An SUV for a long weekend in July in Orlando: \$455. A week in August touring the Algarve in a family-friendly automatic: \$845. But costs aren’t the only problem—there simply aren’t any cars to rent in some destinations.</p> <p>What happened? The pandemic, the chip shortage, and the war in Ukraine, for starters. But this isn’t just a short-term shock; the car rental market could be changed forever. That’s likely to mean permanently higher prices, an influx of electric cars, and the appearance of Chinese brands—and perhaps even the rise of peer-to-peer car sharing as a mainstream alternative, if enough people are willing to share their cars with strangers.</p> <p>Things started to break down in early 2020, when lockdowns around the world resulted in the car rental market falling off a cliff. Almost two-thirds of Avis-Budget’s rental business at airports vanished, with revenues company-wide sliding 41 percent year-on-year in 2020. At Europcar, 2020 revenue was down 42 percent, and Hertz’s revenue fell 46 percent before it filed for bankruptcy—though it has since restructured and recovered.</p> <p>In response to the mayhem, rental companies sold off their cars. In the UK, fleets were slashed by 30 percent, according to the British Vehicle Rental and Leasing Association (BVRLA), a car rental membership organization. In 2019, Hertz had 700,000 vehicles globally. In the first quarter of 2022, that collapsed to 481,000, according to a company spokesperson. Europcar’s fleet size numbered 293,000 vehicles in the first quarter of 2020 but plunged to 187,200 in 2021.</p> <p>That move made sense as the industry’s two key markets, businesses and vacation travelers, were stuck at home, explains Yusuf Allinson, an analyst at market research firm IBISWorld. “There’s no point holding onto depreciating assets that were not generating money,” he says.</p> <p>But as lockdowns eased and travel recovered, car rental companies couldn’t restock, thanks to a chip shortage that stalled manufacturing, a problem exacerbated by complex supply chains that rely on parts made or assembled in Ukraine. The ensuing shortage of cars in rental lots more than doubled prices.</p>

Over Easter, car rental costs were up by an average of 135 percent across Portugal, Cyprus, Spain, Greece, Italy, and France versus 2019 levels, according to consumer organization [Which](#). “You’re buying the car for more, you’re fueling it for more, there’s more demand—it’s very logical for prices to increase,” Allinson says.

And there’s not much you can do about it. But if you want to avoid eye-watering rental quotes, or finding out you can’t get a car for your family holiday, then it’s best to book ahead. Way ahead. Anyone making last-minute plans may not find that advice particularly useful, but there is another option: car-sharing platforms that let people rent out their vehicles. Services such as Turo and Getaround, or UK-based HiyaCar, could fill the gap in corporate rental fleets and help out car owners hit by high fuel costs. HiyaCar has reported 220 percent growth in rental bookings year-on-year, while [earnings for car owners on Turo](#) increased tenfold.

Peer-to-peer car-sharing platforms are—cliché though it is—exactly like Airbnb for cars. But, unlike Airbnb, which is currently valued at \$78.8 billion, car sharing has yet to take off—despite cars sitting [idle 96 percent of the time](#). But now, with old-fashioned rentals expensive and hard to get hold of, car sharing might finally have its moment.

Xavier Collins, vice president of Turo, says that convenience is another benefit of going peer-to-peer, with many people able to find a car a short walk away rather than at a rental lot on the edge of town. That convenience is fine if you’re already in a city, but what about people flying in for a holiday? HiyaCar currently focuses on local renters rather than tourists, saying support for vacationers will hopefully be added this year, but the other two companies do target fliers. Getaround is working to get parking spots for its cars at transport hubs; in France, for example, it has dedicated spots near railway stations.

Turo takes it a step further. Cars are delivered directly to the arrivals zone at airports, with the owner either meeting renters with the keys or leaving the vehicle in airport parking, where it’s unlocked via the app.

Apps like Turo, Getaround, and HiyaCar have the same benefit as Airbnb and other so-called sharing-economy platforms: They don’t own anything. “The cars on the platforms don’t belong to the company,” says Even Heggernes, a vice president at Getaround Europe. “The shortage of cars occurring everywhere is not something that really affects us.”

But that doesn’t mean these platforms have enough vehicles—in the UK, HiyaCar has 2,000 cars for its 150,000 registered users. Turo has 3,000 in the UK, while in the US, Getaround [has](#) 160,000. Sharing platforms rely on individuals letting strangers drive off in their car, which requires trust as well as effort to keep vehicles clean, full of petrol, and otherwise ready for renters. It’s a challenging ask, though Heggernes, whose job focuses on encouraging drivers to sign up—says supply has increased due to the cost-of-living crisis, with people seeking ways to make extra cash.

HiyaCar has one solution to the continued lack of supply: Top up the system with its own vehicles. With 150,000 registered users, HiyaCar has just 2,000 cars, of which 350 are part of its car club system. They aren’t owned by HiyaCar, but by carmakers, who are guaranteed a minimum income, and the aim is to fill in cars where there isn’t yet enough supply, what the company calls the “cold-start problem.”

“We have lots of demand but not enough cars,” says Rob Lamour, cofounder of HiyaCar. “You can’t just launch in an area and suddenly have loads of cars for people to hire; it takes time for it to build up.” Car clubs are also set up in areas without enough vehicles in general, such as central London, where public transport might reduce car ownership but demand for ad hoc rentals remains high.

But traditional car rental companies aren’t sitting back and letting upstarts disrupt their market. Even before the pandemic, rental firms were [lobbying](#) for tighter regulation of the peer-to-peer market, demanding tighter vehicle checks and restrictions on drop-off zones in airports.

Post-pandemic, they're racing to boost their fleets in a few different ways. "Currently, our global fleet is almost back to pre-crisis levels," says Tim Vettters, managing director of Sixt UK. But as buying cars remains difficult, the company is also buying from a wider range of manufacturers and keeping cars in its fleet for longer.

Hertz's [latest annual report](#) shows the average holding period for a vehicle hit historical highs of 25 months in the Americas and 20 months for the rest of the world, versus 18 months for the Americas and 12 internationally [in 2019](#). Europcar's latest [quarterly results](#) show that the company is turning to Asian car makers and electric vehicles to fill gaps in its fleet.

Those tactics are working—but slowly. Europcar's pre-pandemic fleet of 293,000 vehicles, which fell to 187,200 during 2020, has since [rebounded](#) to 243,700. That's echoed by Avis-Budget, which had a fleet of [660,000 vehicles](#) at the end of 2019; it fell to [533,000 the following year](#), and rose to 590,000 by the [fourth quarter of 2021](#). Profits are recovering too, though US politicians have expressed concern of [possible predatory pricing behavior](#), with Hertz [posting a record quarterly profit after its bankruptcy restructuring](#).

Even without apps and peer-to-peer disruption, the car shortage could mean a lasting shake-up in the rental market—and that means prices are likely to stay high. One reason: The car rental industry was previously able to keep prices down in part because automakers produced too many vehicles, says Toby Poston, director of corporate affairs at BVRLA. Rental companies would either buy excess vehicles in bulk at a discount, selling them off after their rental career ended, or set up buyback schemes with manufacturers, cutting a deal to use a car for a short time before returning it.

Both setups favored car rental companies, but the recent shortages mean manufacturers now have the upper hand and no longer have to sell vehicles at a loss. Paired with fuel price inflation, that means car prices will stay high and renting will remain expensive.

Whether that gives peer-to-peer car-sharing firms a chance to disrupt the market remains to be seen. But, if they do, they likely won't just hit revenues at Avis-Budget and Hertz—they could change the whole business of owning a car. While there aren't enough new cars being made, there isn't actually a car shortage—we have more than we need parked, underused. In the UK, there are [40 million vehicles on the road](#); in the US there are 276 million. Rental company fleets are down by hundreds of thousands of vehicles—a difference that could be made up from cars sitting idle on roadsides and in driveways.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Texas DPS: suppress Uvalde footage
SOURCE	https://www.vice.com/en/article/jgpe3q/texas-police-say-body-camera-footage-from-uvalde-could-be-used-to-find-weakness-by-other-shooters-ask-ag-to-suppress-it
GIST	<p>The Texas Department of Public Safety has asked the state's Office of the Attorney General to prevent the public release of police body camera footage from the mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde in part because, it argues, the footage could be used by other shooters to determine "weaknesses" in police response to crimes.</p> <p>The office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton will now review audio and body camera footage recorded by the department to determine if any of it can be released, according to a letter the department sent Motherboard in response to a public records request we filed asking for "photographs and audio as well as video records" recorded by Department of Public Safety officers.</p> <p>"Revealing the marked records would provide criminals with invaluable information concerning Department techniques used to investigate and detect activities of suspected criminal elements; how information is assessed and analyzed; how information is shared among partner law enforcement agencies and the lessons learned from the analysis of prior criminal activities," the department wrote in a letter to the Office of the Attorney General that asked the office to prevent the release of the public records.</p>

“Knowing the intelligence and response capabilities of Department personnel and where those employees focus their attention will compromise law enforcement purposes by enabling criminals to anticipate weakness in law enforcement procedures and alter their methods of operation in order to avoid detection and apprehension.”

Soon after the shooting, in which a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers, Motherboard filed a public records request with Uvalde police, the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District, the Department of Homeland Security and DHS’s Customs and Border Patrol, and the Texas Department of Public Safety. In those requests, we sought body camera footage, CCTV footage, audio recordings, and photos from the scene in an attempt to gain more clarity about what law enforcement did at the scene of the shooting. Uvalde police, in particular, have been criticized for [not following protocol](#) and allowing the shooter to stay in a classroom without trying to stop him, and for [preventing parents from trying to stop the shooter](#) themselves. Authorities said that this [was the "wrong decision."](#)

Customs and Border Patrol rejected our request within a day, noting that any body camera footage is part of an active investigation and thus exempt from Freedom of Information requests. Uvalde Police and the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District, who were not [cooperating with an investigation by DHS](#), have yet to acknowledge our requests. By law, they have 10 business days to respond; in practice, many government agencies around the country simply ignore freedom of information requests or only respond when badgered or threatened with litigation. Motherboard filed those requests nine business days ago.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, however, responded quickly to our request and acknowledged that “photographs and audio as well as video records” do exist. Last week, the *New York Times* [published details from a transcript](#) of body camera footage.

“The Department has located records responsive to your request; however, we believe the records may be excepted from required public disclosure at this time,” a lawyer for the department said. “We are seeking a ruling from the Office of the Attorney General with respect to disclosure of these records, and a copy of our request letter is enclosed.”

In that letter, the department is seeking guidance on our request as well as about a dozen others. The Department of Public Safety told the state attorney general that it believes the footage should be exempted because it is part of an active investigation. Notably, the police are also claiming that publishing the footage would somehow help other mass shooters and thus should be kept private. The Office of the Texas Attorney General will eventually have to decide if it will release any footage.

Citing an “active investigation” is one of the easiest ways for police to prevent information from being divulged to the public, because federal and state public records laws generally have a carveout that prevents records related to an active investigation from being released. In that sense, immediately requesting body camera footage from a mass shooting using a public records request is often a fool’s errand. As VICE News explained earlier this month, police have also used something known as the “dead suspect loophole” to prevent body camera footage from being released.

However, Motherboard has had success in the past obtaining body camera footage from mass tragedies in Texas in the past. In 2016, the day after a sniper killed five police officers in Dallas during a protest against the police killings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, Motherboard requested footage related to the police use of a bomb strapped to a robot to kill the shooter. That request went through a [similar process to the one described above](#), with police sending our request to the Texas Attorney General. In the Dallas Police Department’s letter to the Texas Attorney General, it asked that footage be suppressed because it could be “embarrassing.” In April of last year, nearly five years after our initial request, the Dallas Police Department released hundreds of gigabytes of photos, body camera footage, and surveillance camera footage of the events of that night.

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SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/ukraine-asks-the-west-for-huge-rise-in-heavy-artillery-supply
GIST	<p>Ukraine has called on the west to supply 300 rocket launchers, 500 tanks and 1,000 howitzers before a key meeting on Wednesday amid concern in some quarters it is pushing its demands for Nato-standard weapons to the limit.</p> <p>The maximalist request was made publicly by Mykhailo Podolyak, a key presidential adviser, on Twitter on Monday where he argued that Ukraine needed “heavy weapons parity” to defeat Russia and end the war.</p> <p>That would require, he said, 300 of the multiple launch rocket systems (MLRS) – vastly more than seven or so committed thus far by the US and UK – and greater than the 60 or more that other advisers have previously said would meet its needs.</p> <p>Podolyak’s full list also included “1,000 howitzers” of the Nato 155mm standard, several times more than what has been dispatched so far. The US, the leading arms supplier, had delivered 109 by the end of May.</p> <p>A special meeting of defence ministers takes place on Wednesday in Brussels, which will be chaired by Lloyd Austin, the US defence secretary, to discuss future weapons donations, the third such meeting since the war began. Ben Wallace, his UK counterpart, is among those scheduled to attend.</p> <p>It comes at a time when Ukraine’s military is struggling to resist an intense Russian artillery-led assault on its eastern Donbas region and losing, on some days, 200 soldiers killed in action in the heaviest fighting in Europe since the end of the second world war.</p> <p>Amid such pressure, the meeting has acquired a particular significance in Kyiv, which wants substantial and rapid munition deliveries so that it can try to force the Russian invaders from its territory before the weather turns.</p> <p>Some experts said that Podolyak’s tweet was best interpreted as a negotiating gambit. But there are also questions whether such overt lobbying could be counterproductive, particularly with countries such as Germany, which has repeatedly hesitated over weapons supply and been slower than the US and UK in delivering to Ukraine what it publicly promised.</p> <p>German weapons committed at the end of April include howitzers and Gepard mobile artillery, but the artillery is due to arrive at the end of this month and the specialist armoured vehicles in July, to the frustration of Kyiv.</p> <p>The other demands made by Podolyak, an adviser to President Volodymyr Zelenskiy’s chief of staff, were “500 tanks; 2,000 armoured vehicles; 1,000 drones” – all significant numbers of heavy weaponry that would dramatically alter the military balance and, in some cases, run down western supplies considerably.</p> <p>Three hundred MLRS would roughly amount to half the US existing stock. According to the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) the US army has 363 Himars truck rocket artillery and 225 M270 tracked launchers, and the US Marines have a further 47. The UK has 35 of its version of the M270s.</p> <p>Last week, another Ukrainian presidential adviser, the military analyst Oleksiy Arestovych, said Kyiv would need 60 of the rocket launchers to stop the Russian invaders “dead in their tracks” – and some believe that Ukraine’s real demand is for 100, well in excess of the current level of western offers.</p> <p>A gift of 1,000 howitzers would roughly match the US arsenal. IISS figures, compiled before the donation of 109, show that the US army has 518 M777 towed howitzers of the type already supplied and the US Marines a further 481.</p> <p>However, there are many more than 500 tanks available to western powers. The US army alone has an estimated 2,645 Abrams tanks and somewhere around 3,450 more in storage, according to the IISS’s annual review of military stocks.</p>

	Both before and at the beginning of the war western countries said they would only supply “defensive weapons” to Ukraine to either deter an invasion or halt an advance. Russia, however, has succeeded in occupying a significant portion of territory in the east and the south, prompting calls for its forces to be pushed out.
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HEADLINE	06/13 Data: Russia hemorrhaging millionaires
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/more-than-15000-millionaires-expected-to-leave-russia-in-2022
GIST	<p>More than 15,000 millionaires are expected to flee Russia this year, as wealthy citizens turn their back on Vladimir Putin’s regime after the invasion of Ukraine, according to an analysis of migration data.</p> <p>About 15% of Russians with more than \$1m (£820,000) in ready assets are expected to have emigrated to other countries by the end of 2022, according to projects based on migration data by Henley & Partners, a London-based firm that acts as matchmaker between the super-rich and countries selling their citizenships.</p> <p>“Russia [is] haemorrhaging millionaires,” said Andrew Amoils, the head of research at New World Wealth, which compiled the data for Henley. “Affluent individuals have been emigrating from Russia in steadily rising numbers every year over the past decade, an early warning sign of the current problems the country is facing. Historically, major country collapses have usually been preceded by an acceleration in emigration of wealthy people, who are often the first to leave as they have the means to do so.”</p> <p>Ukraine is projected to suffer the greatest loss of high net worth individuals (HNWIs) as a proportion of its population, with 2,800 millionaires (or 42% of all HNWIs in Ukraine) expected to have left the country by the end of the year.</p> <p>The world’s wealthy have traditionally relocated to the US and the UK but Henley said the United Arab Emirates is expected to overtake them as the No 1 destination for millionaire emigrants. “UK has lost its wealth hub crown, and the US is fading fast as a magnet for the world’s wealthy, with the UAE expected to overtake it by attracting the largest net inflows of millionaires globally in 2022,” Henley said in its report, which is based on “systematically tracking international private wealth migration trends”.</p> <p>About 4,000 HNWIs are expected to have moved to the UAE by the end of the year, ahead of Australia, which is expected to attract about 3,500, Singapore (2,800) and Israel (2,500).</p> <p>Large numbers of millionaires are also expected to move to “the three Ms”: Malta, Mauritius and Monaco. “Malta has been one of Europe’s great success stories of the past decade, not just in terms of millionaire migration but also in terms of overall wealth growth,” Amoils said. “It is currently one of the world’s fastest-growing markets, with US dollar wealth growth of 87% between 2011 and 2021. Its citizenship by naturalisation process has brought substantial new wealth to the island nation and has been credited with propelling Malta’s strong growth in multiple sectors including financial services, IT and real estate. Approximately 300 millionaires are expected to move to Malta in 2022.”</p> <p>The Guardian reported last year that many wealthy people buying “golden passports” to Malta (and thereby the EU) often planned to spend little time in the country. At the time, Henley said it was “proud of the service that it has provided to Malta and its people”.</p> <p>The Indian Ocean island nation Mauritius is described by Henley as a “wealth magnet” because of the creation of an international financial centre offering significant tax breaks. The country has no capital gains tax, no inheritance tax, and maximum tax rate of 3% of global companies.</p> <p>According to the Africa Wealth Report 2022, Mauritius is now home to 4,800 HNWIs compared with 2,700 a decade ago. Approximately 150 millionaires are expected to move to Mauritius in 2022, mainly from South Africa and Europe.</p>

	<p>Monaco has long attracted the world's super-rich because it does not charge income tax, capital gains tax or property tax. Just under seven in 10 people living in Monaco are dollar millionaires.</p> <p>The UK's HNWI population is expected to decline by 1,500, taking the number of people with more than \$1m in ready assets to 738,000. There are currently just over 15 million HNWIs in the world.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Extreme heat sears Spain, southern France
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/spain-and-southern-france-hit-by-second-extreme-heat-event-of-year
GIST	<p>A second extreme heat event of the year is searing Spain and southern France, with temperatures hitting highs not normally recorded until July or August and experts warning summer heatwaves are happening earlier and more often.</p> <p>The French state forecaster, Météo France, said temperatures had already exceeded 35C close to the Mediterranean and would rise further from midweek as the hot air mass moved northwards, with parts of the south-west and Rhone valley reaching 39C.</p> <p>Even in Alsace, Brittany and the greater Paris region, temperatures were expected to reach – and in some areas significantly exceed – 30C, the forecaster Patrick Galois said, adding that the French capital could hit 35C on Thursday.</p> <p>Galois said such events “very rarely” occurred in June and then only at the end of the month. “If this episode is confirmed, it will be a record in terms of how early it has occurred,” he said. Previous extreme temperature episodes in June, such as in 2005 and 2017, had not begun to develop before at least the 18th of the month, he said.</p> <p>The episode's peak should be reached between Thursday and Saturday, Météo France said, adding that it was being fuelled by an Atlantic low-pressure system between the Azores islands and Madeira, favouring the uprising of warm air in western Europe.</p> <p>Besides sustained unusually high daytime temperatures, the mercury was also unlikely to fall below 20C in several areas overnight, the French forecaster said, potentially qualifying the episode as a heatwave in some regions.</p> <p>For an extreme heat event to be formally categorised as a heatwave, temperatures must normally exceed set day- and night-time values that vary region by region for a continuous period of at least three days.</p> <p>In neighbouring Spain, early June temperatures are the hottest recorded in at least 20 years, with 40C recorded over the weekend in Seville and nearby Córdoba, 42C in the Guadiana valley in Extremadura and 43C in other parts of southern Spain.</p> <p>“We are facing unusually high temperatures for June,” a spokesperson for Aemet, the state meteorological office, said, adding that the latest episode was the third-earliest on record and the first to arrive this early since 1981.</p> <p>The forecaster has said global heating meant Spain's summer now began between 20 and 40 days earlier than it did 50 years ago. Last year was Spain's hottest and driest on record, with temperatures hitting an all-time high of 47.4C in Córdoba province.</p> <p>The extreme heat episodes in the two countries follow the hottest May on record in France and Spain. France recorded temperatures exceeding 38C – about 17C hotter than the seasonal average – in some parts of the south last month.</p>

Return to Top	<p>The southern towns of Albi, Toulouse and Montélimar all equalled or exceeded their previous records for the month of May, registering 33.7C, 33.4C and 33.8C, while even north-western Normandy reached 27C, breaking a May record dating back to 1922.</p> <p>In Spain, a mass of hot, dry air blowing in from Africa led to “exceptionally high” daily temperatures between 10C and 15C above some local monthly averages in a May heatwave of “extraordinary and exceptional intensity”.</p> <p>Spain recorded its highest ever temperature, 47.4C, last August in the Andalucían town of Montoro. France’s record was registered during the 2019 European heatwave, when Vérargues in the Hérault département hit 46C.</p> <p>Drought is also becoming an increasing concern, with 35 French départements already having imposed water restrictions. Almost the whole of Portugal had been classified as being in “severe drought” by the end of May, according to the national weather service Ipma.</p> <p>Last month was the country’s hottest May since 1931, with the average temperature more than 3C higher than usual and with average rainfall of just under 9mm – roughly 13% of the normal level. Just over 97% of Portugal is in “severe drought”.</p> <p>“This deficit in rainfall is in line with the trend of the last 20 years, marked by more frequent dry periods as a result of climate change,” said Vanda Pires, an Ipma climatologist, adding that temperatures could also reach 40C in Portugal this week.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Fears grow for Severodonetsk civilians
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/ukraine-russian-forces-pound-sievierodonetsk-as-fears-grow-for-stranded-civilians
GIST	<p>Russian artillery is hitting an industrial zone where 500 civilians are sheltering in the eastern Ukrainian city of Sievierodonetsk, the regional governor has said, with all bridges out of the city destroyed, as fears grow for those who have not yet managed to leave.</p> <p>“All bridges are destroyed,” Serhiy Haidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, said in a video address on Monday evening, adding that Russia had not “completely captured” Sievierodonetsk and “a part of the city” was under Ukrainian control.</p> <p>Earlier in the day, Haidai said Russians were continuing to storm the embattled city and, “having a significant advantage in artillery”, had pushed back Ukrainian soldiers. “The Russians are destroying quarter after quarter,” he said, adding that the Russian army had been “partially successful at night” and controlled 70% of the city.</p> <p>The destruction by Russian forces of the remaining two bridges over the Siverskyi Donets River over the last two days leaves stranded civilians with no escape west to the neighbouring city of Lysychansk, which is also being shelled but remains in Ukrainian hands.</p> <p>“Evacuation and transport of human cargo is now impossible,” Haidai said.</p> <p>Addressing the nation in his nightly video address, the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, said the country was “dealing with absolute evil”.</p> <p>“The human cost of this battle is very high for us,” he added. “It is simply terrifying.”</p> <p>There are fears that a scenario similar to the one seen in the southern port city of Mariupol, where hundreds of people were trapped for weeks in the Azovstal steelworks, could play out in</p>

Sievierodonetsk's [Azot chemical plant](#), where Haidai said 500 civilians were sheltering, 40 of them children.

Haidai said the Ukrainian side was negotiating the evacuation of civilians from Azot with Moscow but so far had failed to reach an agreement. "We are trying to agree, with the help of [Ukrainian deputy prime minister] Irina Vereshchuk, to organise a corridor. So far it has been unsuccessful," the official said.

"Azot's shelters are not as strong as in Mariupol's Azovstal, so we need to take people out with security guarantees."

Sievierodonetsk has become the focal point of Moscow's efforts to advance in eastern [Ukraine](#), where Russia wants to capture the regions of Luhansk and Donetsk, which are collectively known as Donbas, after its failure to quickly seize Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, at the beginning of the war.

Ukrainian troops were fighting street by street to hold on to the city, with both Ukrainian and Russian forces suffering heavy losses, Roman Vlasenko, head of the Sievierodonetsk district administration, told local TV. "Our boys are holding on but the conditions are tough," he said. Vlasenko said the city had been without communications and normal services for a month.

The militia head of the self-proclaimed pro-Russian republic in Donetsk, Eduard Basurin, warned Ukrainian troops in Sievierodonetsk they should "surrender or die".

The UK Ministry of Defence said in its latest intelligence report that river crossing operations were likely to be among the most important determining factors in the course of the war.

The key, 90km-long central sector of Russia's frontline in Donbas lies to the west of the Siverskyi Donets River and in order to achieve success in the current operational phase of its offensive, Russia was "either going to have to complete ambitious flanking actions or conduct assault river crossings", the MoD said.

Last month Russia incurred heavy losses during multiple attempts to cross the river. In one attempt, Russia is believed to have lost more than 80 vehicles as a result of Ukrainian fire, according to open source estimates.

But given Russia's military superiority in the Donbas, military observers said Moscow is likely to make further gains in the area, and Ukrainian officials have been making daily appeals to their western partners to send Kyiv heavier weapons.

"Being straightforward – to end the war we need heavy weapons parity: 1,000 howitzers caliber 155 mm; 300 MLRS; 500 tanks; 2,000 armoured vehicles; 1,000 drones ... We are waiting for a decision," Mykhailo Podolyak, a political adviser to Zelenskiy, wrote on Twitter.

Ukraine's commander in chief, Valeriy Zaluzhny, said during a meeting with his American counterpart, Mark Milley, late on Monday that Russian forces had a 10-fold advantage in firepower.

Also on Monday, the Ukrainian authorities uncovered another mass grave site in a forest near Bucha containing the bodies of seven civilian men. "Seven civilians were tortured by the Russians and brutally executed with bullets in the head," the Kyiv region police chief, Andrei Nebitov, wrote on his Facebook page.

"Multiple victims had their hands tied and their knees shot. We are working to identify the deceased," Nebitov added.

Ukraine's national police said earlier in the day that up to 1,200 bodies of Ukrainians, including those found in mass graves, had not yet been identified.

	<p>The discovery of the mass grave came as Amnesty International released a report accusing Russia of war crimes in Ukraine, saying attacks – many using banned cluster bombs – on Ukraine’s second-largest city of Kharkiv had killed hundreds of civilians.</p> <p>“The repeated bombardments of residential neighbourhoods in Kharkiv are indiscriminate attacks which killed and injured hundreds of civilians, and as such constitute war crimes,” the rights group said in a report entitled Anyone can die at any time.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 UK ramps up gas, oil exports to EU
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2022/jun/13/uk-gas-oil-exports-eu-amid-russia-ukraine-brexite
GIST	<p>The UK has drastically increased the volume of natural gas being pumped to the EU amid Russia’s war in Ukraine, powering a record monthly rise in goods exports to the continent despite Brexit.</p> <p>Figures from the Office for National Statistics show EU goods exports rose for the third consecutive month to £16.4bn in April, the highest monthly level in current prices since comparable records began in 1997.</p> <p>Reflecting the impact of the war in Ukraine as EU nations seek to diversify energy supplies away from Russia, the data suggests the UK is acting as a hub for liquified natural gas (LNG) imports from the rest of the world before pumping it through pipelines to the continent.</p> <p>UK fuel exports rose by £500m on the month, driven by gas and crude oil to the Netherlands and Ireland, in a sign of heightened demand on the continent to refill gas storage sites in the run-up to winter.</p> <p>Much of the rise in total goods exports was driven by the rising value of fuel prices rather than volumes of other products. After adjusting for inflation, goods exports were the highest since December 2020, the last month before the Brexit transition ended.</p> <p>Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has contributed to a dramatic rise in global energy prices amid concern over the security of supply, fuelling the highest rates of inflation for decades in several countries including the UK. EU nations reliant on Russia for much of their energy have sought alternative supplies while reducing imports in response to the war.</p> <p>Analysts said EU countries such as Germany lacked LNG terminal facilities. Jack Sirett, the head of dealing at Ebury, a financial services firm, said: “The UK is a key global importer of the fuel which it then exports to Europe via pipeline, particularly given small storage capability in the UK.”</p> <p>The UK is home to three of the largest terminals in Europe for converting LNG back into gas, two at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire and the other at the Isle of Grain in north Kent. Imports to these sites have risen sharply from the US and Qatar as western governments move to reduce their reliance on Russian supplies.</p> <p>The ONS said UK exports to Russia fell to the lowest monthly value since January 1999, while monthly imports fell to the lowest since March 2004.</p> <p>Although the UK has among the highest LNG terminal capacities in Europe, it has among the smallest storage facilities to build stockpiles in the run-up to winter. The UK’s biggest gas storage plant, the Rough facility in the North Sea, was closed in 2017 after the government refused to subsidise maintenance and upgrades needed to keep it open.</p> <p>HSBC estimates Europe’s four biggest storage holders – Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and France – have capacity equivalent to more than a quarter of annual consumption, while the UK has only 2% of annual demand. This makes the UK more dependent on domestic production, pipeline and LNG imports.</p>

HEADLINE	06/14 Fears of renewed Russia strikes on Kharkiv
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/fears-of-renewed-russian-strikes-hang-over-return-to-kharkiv-11655199000?mod=hp_lead_pos8
GIST	<p>KHARKIV, Ukraine—Ukraine’s second-largest city spent weeks under relentless Russian bombardment that turned swaths of its downtown and outlying districts into rubble.</p> <p>Now, as residents who fled the war look to return following Russia’s withdrawal, an automated service launched by the mayor’s office informs them whether they still have a home left.</p> <p>Using a bot on the Telegram app, Kharkiv homeowners can check whether their house or apartment is intact, what the level of damage is, and whether they have electricity, water and gas.</p> <p>“You can make your own, balanced decision about whether to return,” Mayor Ihor Terekhov said in a video announcing the program this month.</p> <p>The city of 1.4 million people just 20 miles from the Russian border is now welcoming back a steady trickle of residents, despite a major recent uptick in Russian strikes. Mr. Terekhov says some 2,000 people return to the city each day, encountering mostly deserted streets and damage that will take years—and billions of dollars—to repair.</p> <p>A Russian offensive to take Kharkiv, which began when President Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, stuttered to a halt in March, leaving a landscape of twisted metal, charred vehicles and gutted buildings. By the time most residents crawled out of bomb shelters and subway stations that had served as their refuge, shelling and airstrikes had killed hundreds and struck at least 2,000 high-rise accommodation blocks.</p> <p>A successful Ukrainian counteroffensive has since pushed Russian forces out of the city and the surrounding villages. But Kharkiv remains within the range of Russian artillery, which continues to pound the city from Russian territory.</p> <p>Mr. Terekhov, whose office was pulverized when a Russian missile struck the regional administration building on March 1, said 150,000 people have lost their homes and more than half of the city’s residents have fled. And those who are coming back, having run out of money or desperate to reunite with loved ones, know they may be forced to leave again.</p> <p>When the war began, Volodymyr Prividenny was putting finishing touches to the spacious family home he had built near Saltivka, a neighborhood in the city’s northeast that would bear the brunt of Russian bombardment in the days that followed. He fled Kharkiv with his wife, daughter and granddaughter for the city of Dnipro, further south than Kharkiv, in early March.</p> <p>The family returned in mid-May, reassured by friends still in the city. Two days later, a Russian missile hit a fire station near their home, apparently targeting the Kharkiv Aviation Institute next door. They left again, returning only last week, in the hopes of recapturing a semblance of normality. But just days after their return, Russian shelling struck a pizzeria and private home several blocks away.</p> <p>“I worked all my life to build our house,” said Mr. Prividenny, who owns a business producing plastics. “I just wanted to settle down and finally enjoy it.”</p> <p>Kharkiv is a Russian-speaking city where many have family in Russia and felt a strong connection to that country. But for those whose homes have been damaged and lives uprooted by Mr. Putin’s invasion, the calculus has changed.</p>

“I’ve never felt such hatred toward Russians before,” said Olha Sokirko, an accountant who fled the city with her 15-year-old daughter in early March and returned early this month to be with her husband. “My sincere wish for each one of them is to experience what my friends, relatives and parents here have experienced.”

Ms. Sokirko, a Russian speaker, said she has relatives in St. Petersburg who tell her that Ukrainian forces are responsible for the destruction of her city, repeating propaganda peddled on Russian state TV. She has since deleted their numbers and stopped talking to them.

Mr. Terekhov, the mayor, said he has seen a radical change in Kharkiv. “Before the war, every fourth person had relatives or friends in Russia,” he said. “But today it’s a different story. Friends have severed ties, brothers have become estranged.”

He said his administration doesn’t encourage people to return, but tries to help those who do.

“People need to understand they’re returning to a changed city,” he said. The process of repairing damaged buildings has only begun, but some 500 high-rises are beyond repair and others are in areas that come under shelling daily. “I can’t send people to their deaths,” he said of the workers dispatched to repair broken power lines and plumbing in areas near the front line.

Mr. Terekhov praised Western support that has eased the pressure on Kharkiv as it seeks to re-establish basic services despite continued attacks. Within an hour of a Russian missile strike that hit a cafe, store and school library in the city’s Novobavarsky district last week, several dozen volunteers had arrived to clean up the debris. That strike killed two people and reverberated throughout the city.

The mayor said the U.S. and EU member states had given financial aid, mattresses for use by the military, and medicines worth \$880,000. Some of the aid came from as far away as Chicago. “We’ll get through this,” he said.

Yet serious issues remain, not least how to house the thousands who have come to Kharkiv seeking shelter from villages that now find themselves on the front line, ravaged by artillery battles between Ukrainian troops and Russian forces with positions less than 15 miles from the city.

In the bunker of a sprawling bicycle factory north of the city center, two dozen refugees are living in squalid conditions in a cramped space with damp walls that is kept habitable by a single electric heater.

Olha Shevchenko left the village of Prudyanka on the first day of the war with her husband Mykola and her two sons, Andriy and Kolya. She was heavily pregnant at the time, and after they had found shelter in a warehouse of the bicycle plant, she cautiously ran downstairs whenever shells fell nearby.

Their son, Zhenya, was born just a week after the start of the war, when the couple were living in the dank basement. She now spends her days tending to him, while Mykola works at the plant that reopened just this month.

Andriy, 17, braved enemy fire to visit Prudyanka two weeks ago and collect the family’s possessions. He found that their home had been destroyed. “We thought this would all end soon,” said Ms. Shevchenko. “But now we have nowhere else to go.”

Tatiana Artyukh spent three weeks in a basement in Kutuzivka village with her husband, who is partly paralyzed after a recent heart attack. They fled for Kharkiv a month ago. At the time, only 26 people remained of the 1,000 who lived in the village. She said she still shakes from the slightest sound.

“We were living in a gray zone, with Ukrainian and Russian artillery flying overhead. And now we’ll stay here until they kick us out,” she said. “We have nothing, and no one needs us.”

HEADLINE	06/13 Record-breaking gas prices WA: \$5.55/gal.
SOURCE	https://mynorthwest.com/3507045/record-breaking-gas-prices-in-washington-state/
GIST	<p>For the first time ever, the price for a gallon of gas has risen above \$5.00 in the United States.</p> <p>The American Automobile Association (AAA) says the national average is \$5.014 per gallon. The average cost of a gallon of gas in Washington State is \$5.55, according to AAA.</p> <p>In King County, it is \$5.67 a gallon. In Snohomish County, \$5.56, and in Pierce County is \$5.55 a gallon.</p> <p>Increasing summer demand for fuel and the war in Ukraine is pushing prices higher, according to GasBuddy, a tech company dedicated to finding the cheapest fuel for its users.</p> <p>GasBuddy also says issues at refineries or a hurricane would increase the price of gas. If you want to save at the pump this summer, shop around for the best prices, pay with a gas card, or use a gas rewards card. A year ago today, gas was just \$3.067 per gallon, according to AAA data. Gas prices have risen 62% over the past 12 months. Gas prices have even jumped 15% over the past month alone nationally.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 UK inquiries Grenfell Tower fire continue
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/world/europe/grenfell-fire-london-explainer.html
GIST	<p>LONDON — Five years ago, a fire in a tower block in West London killed 72 people, shattered a community, unsettled a country and exposed harsh inequalities in one of London’s richest neighborhoods. It also set off a broad reckoning into British fire regulations and building safety.</p> <p>Shortly before 1 a.m. on June 14, 2017, a resident on the fourth floor woke up his neighbor to tell him that his fridge had blown up. The fire in the kitchen quickly spread to flammable cladding covering the outside of the 24-story building and climbed up the side of the structure.</p> <p>At 12:54 a.m., the London Fire Brigade got the first call. Firefighters reached the scene a few minutes later and entered the building.</p> <p>Flames were moving quickly along the building’s combustible covering, wrapping the tower in flames. For about two hours after the fire was reported, firefighters advised residents to stay in their apartments. Some still went out through the stairs and more than 200 people survived, of approximately 300 people who were in the building at the time.</p> <p>The fire was not brought under control until more than 24 hours after it had begun.</p> <p>Grenfell Tower was built in the 1970s, and its concrete structure, originally built without cladding, was designed to contain a fire in one apartment for long enough to allow firefighters to intervene. The year before the fire, Grenfell Tower underwent a renovation and its facade was covered with panels.</p> <p>Residents have said that the facade was installed to make their housing project more aesthetically pleasing since it stands close to high-end areas in the London borough of Kensington and Chelsea.</p> <p>The panels were made of sheets of an aluminum composite with one layer of polyethylene sandwiched between them. During the fire, the polyethylene, a type of plastic, melted and caught fire, with flaming drops falling down the sides of the building. The insulation between the panels and the concrete structure was also flammable, and the air gap between them whisked heat and flames upward.</p> <p>The cladding, which has been used in several other buildings across England, is not allowed on high-rise buildings in many countries, including the United States, because of fire danger. But decades of deregulation in England led to lax building rules that allowed some developers to prioritize cutting costs over safety.</p>

Residents had complained for years that the building was unsafe, lacking sprinklers, fire alarms and fire escapes. It also had only one staircase.

The routine advice by the firefighters to stay inside, based on the assumption that fires can be compartmentalized, also did not take into account the fact that the cladding would lead to the fire's quickly engulfing the entire building. And, according to a report from a government-commissioned investigation, the London Fire Brigade "failed to revoke the 'stay put' advice at a time when the stairs remained passable."

The investigations

The government-commissioned investigation was divided into two phases. The result of the first inquiry, focusing on what happened the night of the fire, was issued in 2019. The nearly 900-page report [harshly criticized the London Fire Brigade](#), especially for failing to urge residents to leave. The report acknowledged but did not focus on the materials used for the building's covering.

The second phase of the public inquiry, which is expected to address how and why the cladding was adopted in the renovation, is continuing and is expected to end later this year. Lawsuits have been filed against local authorities and manufacturers, including Arconic, the [American company that manufactured the cladding](#), and Celotex, a British company that made the insulation.

London's Metropolitan Police Service is also conducting a criminal investigation into offenses that include corporate manslaughter, gross negligence manslaughter, fraud, and health and safety offenses. The police said the publication of any final public inquiry report will follow the Phase 2 report.

After that, if police officials conclude there is sufficient evidence to consider criminal charges, they will submit a file to the Crown Prosecution Service, which is responsible for prosecuting criminal cases investigated by the police and other investigative authorities in England and Wales.

On Monday, Stuart Cundy, deputy assistant commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police, [said in a statement](#) that the agency has more than 180 investigators dedicated to the Grenfell fire investigation and that they are working with international experts. In a statement, he said they spent a year doing forensic examinations of the tower, that they have taken more than 9,000 witness statements and worked through over 130 million documents from companies and organizations linked to the tower.

For bereaved families, the delay in accountability is a protracted pain.

"For us that is one of the many open wounds," said Giannino Gottardi, whose son Marco Gottardi died in the fire.

What has changed

The fire at Grenfell Tower has called attention to widespread fire safety problems in buildings across England, with thousands of apartments at risk in what has been called a "cladding scandal."

After the fire, in 2017, nearly 4,000 residents [were evacuated](#) from dangerous high-rise buildings in London, and the government ordered an investigation into cladding and insulation on high-rise towers.

The British government has since banned Grenfell-style cladding on tall buildings, which has been [removed](#) from many of the hundreds of other high-rises where it was identified. This month, the government announced a complete ban on the use of that cladding on all new buildings and buildings undergoing repairs, regardless of height or use.

The British government has also allocated billions of dollars to fund the removal of unsafe cladding in England, but critics said the funds were largely insufficient and many people who owned apartments in unsafe buildings found themselves having to endure burdensome costs to fix them and struggled to hold developers accountable.

In January, the British government announced plans to [overhaul the government's approach to building safety](#) across England, and has made moves to ensure that the costs of fixing fire safety issues are shouldered by the developers.

The victims

One of the older of the Grenfell Tower victims was in her 80s, the youngest only a few months old. Among the others who died in the fire were two young Italian architects who had moved to London to pursue their careers. Another resident, Rania Ibrahim, recorded a video and posted it online as she tried to escape the fire. "It's over. It is here," she said. "Pray for us." Her two daughters, ages 3 and 5, also died. Others were a great-grandfather, a 6-year-old who dreamed of becoming a fireman and a 24-year-old artist of Gambian heritage whose work [was featured](#) in the memorial space of the Tate Britain art gallery.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Iran: Israel fatally poisoned 2 scientists
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/world/middleeast/israel-poison-iranian-scientists.html
GIST	<p>They both graduated from Iran's top universities — young, healthy and athletic — before they suddenly fell ill in late May. The two scientists grew sicker and sicker, and ended up in the intensive care units of hospitals in two different cities nearly 400 miles apart.</p> <p>Then, they both died within days of each other.</p> <p>Iran believes Israel killed them by poisoning their food, according to an Iranian official and two other people with ties to the government who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject. One of them, Ayoub Entezari, was an aeronautical engineer who worked for a military research center, and the other, Kamran Aghamolaei, was a geologist.</p> <p>Compounding the mystery behind their deaths, Israeli media and Persian news channels abroad reported that Mr. Aghamolaei worked at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility. But friends denied that, and said he worked for a private geological research company, and The New York Times could not corroborate that he had any ties to the government or any weapons program.</p> <p>Mr. Entezari had a doctorate in aeronautics and worked on projects related to missiles and airplane turbines for a government aerospace center in the city of Yazd, about 390 miles southeast of the capital, Tehran.</p> <p>He developed symptoms of food poisoning after attending a dinner he was invited to in Yazd, according to a staff member of a senior Iranian official. The host of the dinner party had disappeared and authorities were searching for him, according to the staff member, who could not be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly.</p> <p>Mr. Aghamolaei had just returned to Tehran from a business trip to the northwestern city of Tabriz when he developed intense nausea and diarrhea that worsened day by day until his organs failed and he died, according to a friend.</p> <p>If, as Iran suspects, these mysteriously similar deaths were targeted killings, it would fit the pattern of a shadow war with Israel that has seen both sides strike each other with just enough secrecy to avoid a full blown war.</p> <p>Now that shadow war appears to be intensifying. In the past two weeks alone, a series of deaths linked to Israel have rattled Iran. Israel appears to have broadened its targets from senior figures connected to the nuclear program to military personnel and lower level scientists.</p> <p>A spokeswoman for the Israeli prime minister's office declined to comment on the two recent deaths inside Iran.</p>

But Israel has worked clandestinely for years to undermine Iran's nuclear and weapons programs, including by targeted killings of experts involved in those endeavors. It has also attacked [Iranian military sites](#) developing advanced drones and [missiles](#).

Iran, in turn, has tried to [target Israeli citizens around the world](#), and armed and funded regional militias hostile to Israel, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon.

But much of the conflict has centered around the nuclear program.

Israel staunchly opposes the efforts, albeit faltering, to resurrect the [2015 nuclear deal](#) between Iran and world powers — which [President Donald J. Trump pulled out of in 2018](#). The agreement eased punishing economic sanctions on Tehran in exchange for limiting Iran's nuclear activity.

Israel feels the deal does not limit Iran's nuclear activities enough at a time when it is deeply concerned that the country is within close reach of producing enough enriched uranium to make a nuclear weapon.

Supporters of the nuclear deal, however, say it will limit Iran's uranium enrichment, allow the United Nations nuclear watchdog to resume monitoring of the Iranian nuclear program and reduce the threat of Iran developing nuclear weapons.

Iran has long maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes only. But an American intelligence assessment years ago concluded that the country once had a nuclear weapons program, then [halted it in 2003](#).

If the negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal collapse and Iran accelerates its nuclear activities or [further reduces cooperation with U.N. monitors](#), the covert war with Israel risks blowing up into an open conflict.

“Whether or not there is a nuclear deal, this type of activity will likely intensify — Iran extending its reach around Israel, Israel extending its reach deeper inside of Iran,” said Henry Rome, an Iran analyst with the Eurasia Group, a political risk consultancy.

The quickening pace of attacks in Iran, taken together with recent comments by Israeli leaders, suggest a shift in Israel's strategy.

“The past year has been a year of changing course in Israel's strategy vis-à-vis Iran,” Prime Minister Naftali Bennett of Israel said on Tuesday at a meeting of the parliamentary foreign affairs and defense and foreign affairs committee. “We have shifted into a higher gear. We are acting at all times and places, and we will continue to do so.”

Over the past two weeks in Iran, a senior member of the powerful Revolutionary Guards Corps, Sayad Khodayee, [was targeted and killed in](#) a drive-by shooting in Tehran. A young Defense Ministry engineer was killed in a [drone attack](#). And another senior member of the Revolutionary Guards [fell suspiciously](#) to his death from a balcony.

Then, the two scientists died.

Mr. Entezari, 35, died on May 31. A colleague from the military research facility where he worked said on social media that he had been well the night before he suddenly fell ill, and Iranian media reported that nobody else in his family had gotten sick, although they had all eaten the same food.

The governor of Yazd Province, where he lived, presented his family with a framed certificate of condolence that deemed him “a martyr” and thanked the family for its sacrifice to the nation. Iran bestows the label martyr as an honor on those killed by enemy fire or in the line of duty to their country. A City Council member in Yazd called his death “[biological terror](#).”

	<p>But in the face of Israel's repeated breaches of Iranian security, officials quickly pulled back on calling Mr. Entezari a martyr and on other details that could point to another Israeli attack — something that could potentially embarrass the authorities.</p> <p>The governor's public relations office retracted the martyr reference two days later, saying it was an error. The prosecutor's office in Yazd denied Mr. Entezari was an aerospace engineer, and instead said he was an ordinary employee of an industrial company.</p> <p>Mahmoud Entezari, a relative who leads tours in Yazd, said on his Instagram page that the engineer had worried that his life was in danger after the photographs of him with Mr. Rouhani surfaced in local media. The photographs, he had told his relative, were supposed to remain confidential.</p> <p>When reached for comment, Mahmoud Entezari refused.</p> <p>Iranian officials have been even quieter about Mr. Aghamolaei, 31, who died on June 2.</p> <p>The only official mention of Mr. Aghamolaei's death was a condolence statement from the president of Tarbiat Modares University in Tehran, which said he was a doctoral student in geology. The statement then claimed he had died of a heart attack in his hometown, Izeh, a small, working-class area in the southern Khuzestan Province.</p> <p>The family is waiting for the result of an autopsy report by the government-run coroner's office, said the friend who provided the account of his suddenly falling ill after eating. But given the sensitivity around the case, relatives worry the autopsy result might not be shared with them.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Global stocks selloff amid recession fears
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/14/business/stocks-bonds-bear-market.html
GIST	<p>The sell-off in stocks continued across the Asia-Pacific region on Tuesday as fears mounted of a recession in the United States and a slowdown in the global economy.</p> <p>Japan's Nikkei index fell 1.7 percent in afternoon trading, while China's Shanghai Composite Index was off 0.5 percent. In Australia, the key stock index tumbled about 4 percent, to its lowest levels in two years.</p> <p>The market declines followed weakness in the United States, where stocks lost 3.9 percent on Monday to close in bear market territory. After reaching a record high in January, the S&P 500 has fallen more than 20 percent, the seventh bear market in the last 50 years.</p> <p>The markets have been shaken by the broad geopolitical concerns and inflationary pressures. In the United States, investors are worried that rising prices could trigger the biggest interest rate increase by the Federal Reserve since 1994.</p> <p>The question for the markets, said Bruce Pang, a Hong Kong-based analyst with China Renaissance Securities, is whether the Fed can strike the right balance between curbing rampant inflation and not applying the brakes too aggressively on the U.S. economy. "Investors are just re-evaluating global risk," said Mr. Pang. "They want to play it safe."</p> <p>The economic troubles have been compounded by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The war has further strained an already stretched global supply chain while weighing on global food and oil supplies. As inflation surges, central banks around the world have been moving to raise rates.</p> <p>China is also complicating the global outlook. As the Chinese government doggedly pursues a zero-Covid strategy, the resulting lockdowns and restrictions have crimped growth. Chinese officials are increasingly concerned about the state of the economy, raising doubts that the country will meet its growth targets.</p>

	<p>Given the swirl of concerns, economists have been rapidly cutting their global growth estimates. The World Bank issued a grim warning last week, saying recession will be hard for many countries to avoid.</p> <p>On Monday, the credit rating firm Fitch cut its 2022 forecast for global gross domestic product, or G.D.P., to 2.9 percent, from a March estimate of 3.5 percent.</p> <p>It cited concerns about “restrictive” monetary policy and inflation, noting that the supply disruptions from the war between Russia and Ukraine are having a “swifter impact on European inflation than expected.” It also slashed growth projections for China because it did not expect the economy to bounce back quickly as long as the government remains committed to the zero-Covid policy.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Moved during pandemic? Check insurance
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/realestate/home-moving-renovations-insurance.html
GIST	<p>When the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020, Carolyn Richmond, a longtime New Yorker, packed several bags and drove to her weekend home in Sag Harbor, N.Y., with the intention of staying a week or two. She never left.</p> <p>“I knew the pandemic was going to be really bad. Ultimately deciding not to return was very emotional,” said Ms. Richmond, 53. “I’d lived at the Claridge House on East 87th Street for 29 years. My lease was up that November. I eventually packed up everything I owned, put what I needed into storage and decided to stay on Long Island permanently.”</p> <p>Like countless others, she renovated. A master bathroom with a wet room was created, as were walk-in closets and an office, complete with new furnishings and better technology. Black tar replaced a pebbled driveway. Appliances were upgraded. Everything was accounted for — except a call to her insurance broker to see if her living transformation matched her existing policy.</p> <p>“I knew I had good insurance, but I didn’t think to call and ask if I needed more or a different kind,” said Ms. Richmond, chairwoman of the hospitality practice group at the law firm Fox Rothschild. “In hindsight, I got a bit sloppy.”</p> <p>She’s not alone. Amid lockdowns, quarantines, and working and learning from home, many Americans have faced changes in how they live, where they live, and even what they’ve bought or inherited. Through it all, insurance has not been top of mind.</p> <p>“The world was trying to survive. The concern for upgrading their policies for all of these experiences fell by the wayside,” explained Kurt George, a vice president at Property Damage Appraisers, an independent appraisal firm based in Fort Worth. “Very quickly, people were no longer properly covered.”</p> <p>So that your insurance plan better reflects your post-pandemic life, here are a few questions and suggestions worth considering. There is no one policy that fits all, so don’t be afraid to get quotes from different sources and specialists.</p> <p>Is Your Primary Home Still Your Primary Home?</p> <p>“For those that moved or bought new homes, their primary apartments in New York became secondary homes, while secondary dwellings like their Hamptons or Westport home became primary residences. That comes with specific differences for insurance companies,” said Adam Wolfson, the owner of Wolfson Global Insurance Brokerage, an independent insurance agency based in Manhattan.</p> <p>While flipping their living situations, Mr. Wolfson said, people forgot to discuss the following changes with their brokers: What home or apartment will they call their primary residency, and what amendments, including geographical conditions and considerations, will need to be accounted for so their policy reflects their change in lifestyle?</p>

“In a secondary home, you generally don’t need as much coverage for your belongings. You don’t tend to keep as many clothes there. Furnishings are typically not as high end. And your liability protection, if someone got hurt and sued you, tends to stay with the primary policy,” he explained.

Full vs. Partial Payment

If you’re one of the many people who made renovations, added extensions or made big purchases, you want to make sure you’re covered for replacement cash value, or R.C.V., as opposed to actual cash value, or A.C.V., Mr. George said. “That means if something needs to be replaced, you receive the amount it would cost to replace it today rather than the depreciation cost to replace your 20-year-old stove, which is important if you’ve just renovated your kitchen,” he explained.

Mr. George stressed this difference since “renovations and home improvement costs escalated up to 50 percent during the pandemic,” he said.

“Materials have increased, and there’s been a shortage of employees,” he added. “If something were to happen, you want to be reimbursed for 100 percent for the work you have just done.”

Inherited Items

The unexpected passing of loved ones has been one of the greatest tragedies of the pandemic, leaving friends and family suddenly inheriting expensive heirlooms, jewelry, artwork and antiques. “These items fall under a valuable articles policy, which offers additional and extensive protection for higher-end assets that might not be covered under one’s existing policy,” said Jim Hickey, head of personal lines for World Insurance Associates, an independent brokerage firm based in Edison, N.J.

“Since standard policies are extremely limited when it comes to covering expensive assets like these, it’s important to find out what kind of additional coverage is right for what you now own,” he added.

Cyberstalking

As people continue to work out of their basements, attics and closets, their internet use has increased exponentially, leaving them overexposed and underprotected.

“Most people’s home internet devices were basic and rudimentary. Unlike their offices, their homes didn’t have cutting edge virus software or high-tech internet security systems they needed, which created more risk for online theft, stolen identity, hacking, data breach and piracy violations,” said Mr. Wolfson, who suggested inquiring about cyber liability coverage.

“Most higher-end residential insurance companies offer this as an add-on to a home insurance policy,” he said. “There’s even cyberbullying and breach-of-privacy protection.”

Aside from covering and reimbursing expenses such as credit monitoring and legal fees, this kind of coverage can also help you get in touch with credit agencies and your banks, and reissue important documents. However, if you are with a company that doesn’t offer cyber liability protection you will most likely need to move your homeowner’s insurance to a new carrier, Mr. Wolfson added.

Who’s Responsible?

Some people have used whatever space is available inside, while others have turned to the outdoors, converting garages, yards and even newly constructed sheds into unexpected offices. And yes, there’s a policy for that. “Working from home isn’t going away so quickly,” said Sean Burgess, the chief claims officer for Lemonade, a global digital insurance company based in Manhattan. “The question to ask is, How does your existing policy apply to the new belongings you have in your home now that you’re utilizing them for business?”

“Some people brought their old office into their homes — that meant monitors, computers, product inventory, among other items,” Mr. Burgess added. He recommended asking the company who would be responsible for these items if they were stolen or damaged, and for lost wages. “This is a gray area because it’s your company’s property, but ultimately these items are on your property,” he said.

Traditionally, Mr. Burgess explained, policies cover up to \$2,500 of business- or work-related items on the premises. If you're traveling with the item, that coverage is reduced to \$1,500. He suggested inquiring about small-commercial- or small-business policies, which are usually tacked on to your homeowner's plan. "Whatever type of building you've created to work in, you want to make sure you're covered for that stand-alone work space," he explained. "Small-business insurance plans also add additional personal liability for damages and injuries than homeowner's do."

Pandemic Pups

Let's not forget your other addition — pets need insurance, too. "It pays to ask about bundling," Mr. Burgess said. "Because it's typically combined with an existing policy, insurance companies often offer a 10 to 15 percent discount for owning more than one plan with the same provider. There's also the convenience of having multiple policies with one provider and the additional convenience for the consumer to work with just one company."

Auto Correct

With rising inflation and most expenses increasing, some people have saved by letting go of unnecessary costs, like monthly garage spaces. "For those that moved out of the city, insurance premiums dropped pretty significantly," Mr. Wolfson said. "Upstate New York is far cheaper for auto insurance. You could save hundreds of dollars annually just by moving your car to your weekend house."

Car bundling is another money-saving consideration. If you don't have a car but have become a frequent renter for getaways, Mr. Wolfson said, you can find additional savings through higher-end companies like Chubb, whose \$1 million personal liability coverage includes renters and borrowed car insurance — an extra fee you would have to pay if renting from, say, Hertz or Avis.

Document Everything

Since the pandemic has prevented inspectors or appraisers from making personal house calls, insurance carriers have pivoted and guided clients via Zoom or Facebook on the coverage evaluation process.

"Clients made lists of everything they did or purchased, including materials used and costs for their renovations, and uploaded them directly to their insurance carrier, to properly insure replacement cost coverage," Mr. Hickey said.

Others have stored their materials on iCloud. "iCloud is far more efficient. A fireproof safe is great, but when your building or house is evacuated, you're never going back inside to retrieve it," Mr. George said. A safe, he joked, is "also very 1985."

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HEADLINE	06/13 Flag Day fades from public schools
SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/jun/13/flag-day-fades-public-schools-amid-culture-wars/
GIST	<p>Maybe, with all the focus on exposing students to hot-button cultural issues, there's just no room in the modern American classroom for lessons on Flag Day, the annual celebration of the history of the Stars and Stripes.</p> <p>A study says more than 30% of children don't know the American flag has 50 stars representing the nation's 50 states.</p> <p>The survey, released by the homework learning platform Brainly ahead of the holiday Tuesday, also finds that 53.2% of middle and high school students do not discuss Flag Day in their schools. Still, more than 35% want to learn about it.</p> <p>James Grossman, executive director of the American Historical Association, says the holiday — which commemorates the day in 1777 when the United States approved the design for its first national flag — matters less today than the flag's elements and "how they mean different things to different people."</p>

“Perhaps the flag is best thought of not in terms of students memorizing facts about it, but as a source of thoughtful questions in a history or civics class,” Mr. Grossman said in an email Monday. “What should the elements of the flag represent? Why?”

Wilfred M. McClay, a historian at Hillsdale College, says U.S. history classes have increasingly “discouraged” a focus on the flag as a symbol of the country’s freedoms while emphasizing the constitutional right to burn it.

“For the flag is our most powerful symbol of what makes us one people. We should not be surprised if our neglect of it will have serious consequences for our cohesion as a nation,” Mr. McClay said Monday.

This year’s Flag Day comes amid a contentious national debate over whether U.S. public schools should shape students’ opinions on controversial political issues or stick to the facts of reading, writing and arithmetic.

Spurred on by parental rights groups, Republican lawmakers have promoted parental rights in education laws in states including Florida and Oklahoma to remove “divisive concepts” from the classroom.

Those concepts include lessons on gender identity for small children, discussions of systemic racism in the nation’s history and “woke math” textbooks that use examples from both in word problems.

Robert Gmeiner, an economist at Methodist University in North Carolina, said the American flag is a controversial symbol of racism and sexism for those who promote these lessons.

He points as an example to the pushback of far-left activists against Nike’s Betsy Ross sneakers, which featured the nation’s original flag with 13 stars in a circle to represent the 13 colonies that formed the United States.

“It was taken as a symbol of slavery,” Mr. Gmeiner said.

Although many schools are out for summer break each June 14, a teacher helped develop the annual holiday, also known as National Flag Day.

Wisconsin teacher Bernard J. Cigrand urged his students in 1885 to observe the date as “Flag Birthday.” His desire to honor the flag led him to write an article in a Chicago newspaper.

As regional celebrations spread, President Wilson proclaimed June 14 as Flag Day in 1916. Congress permanently established the observance in 1949.

Despite that history, only 45% of the students who responded to Brainly’s survey knew that the original American flag had 13 stars.

The survey also found that just 16% of respondents correctly knew that the red, white and blue colors signify valor, purity, and justice. More than 59% of the others incorrectly said it represented freedom, equality, and justice for all.

Colleen Sheehan, a professor in the School of Civic and Economic Thought and Leadership at Arizona State University, says the survey shows schools could do a better job teaching the flag to students.

“The American flag reminds us of what America stood for at the time of our founding. It reminds us of the work we have yet to do today to live up to that vision, that idea captured in the word ‘America,’” Ms. Sheehan said Monday.

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SOURCE	https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2022/jun/13/feds-claw-back-10-billion-bogus-pandemic-loans/
GIST	<p>The federal government has recaptured \$10 billion that the government wrongly paid out in pandemic loans to small businesses, according to new numbers Congress released Monday.</p> <p>Congressional Democrats released the new numbers ahead of a hearing Tuesday on the scope of fraud in pandemic assistance programs.</p> <p>Democrats argue that the Biden administration is improving in targeting bogus payments, and they said the new numbers back up that assertion: The \$10 billion marks a \$5 billion increase in just a couple of months.</p> <p>But it is still a tiny fraction of the total amount of fraud believed to have struck the two loan programs overseen by the Small Business Administration during the pandemic.</p> <p>Estimates say perhaps 15% of the \$1.135 trillion allocated for the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans went to fraudsters.</p> <p>Another pandemic program, the enhanced unemployment benefits, may have seen fraud of as much as \$250 billion, with a large share of that money flowing to criminal syndicates operating from outside the U.S., some with backing of America's adversaries.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Day 111 of the Russia invasion
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/14/russia-ukraine-war-what-we-know-on-day-111-of-the-invasion
GIST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ukraine's president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has said the intense battle for Sievierodonetsk is taking a "terrifying" toll on Ukraine. "The human cost of this battle is very high for us. It is simply terrifying. The battle for the Donbas will without doubt be remembered in military history as one of the most violent battles in Europe," he said in an address to the nation late on Monday. All three bridges to the embattled eastern city of Sievierodonetsk have been destroyed, according to the governor of the Luhansk region, Serhiy Haidai. In a video update, Haidai said Russia had not "completely captured" the city and "a part of the city" was under Ukrainian control. Russian artillery was hitting an industrial zone where 500 civilians were sheltering in the eastern Ukrainian city, Haidai added. Ukrainian troops in the city must "surrender or die", a Russian-backed separatist leader in the self-proclaimed republic in Donetsk warned. Ukrainian authorities said they discovered a new mass grave of civilians near Bucha in the Kyiv region. Investigators exhumed seven bodies from makeshift graves in a forest outside the village of Vorzel, less than 10km from Bucha, the scene of previous alleged Russian atrocities. Kyiv region's police chief, Andriy Nyebytov, said: "This is another sadistic crime of the Russian army." One man, he said, "has two injuries. He was shot in the knee with a gun. The second shot was into his temple." Ukraine has called on the west to supply 300 rocket launchers, 500 tanks and 1,000 howitzers before a key meeting on Wednesday. The request was made publicly by Mykhailo Podolyak, a key presidential adviser, amid concern in some quarters it is pushing its demands for Nato-standard weapons to the limit. Zelenskyy accused the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, of being too concerned about the repercussions his support for Ukraine would have for Berlin's ties with Moscow. "We need from Chancellor Scholz the certainty that Germany supports Ukraine," he said in an interview with German public broadcaster ZDF. "He and his government must decide: there can't be a trade-off between Ukraine and relations with Russia." Local media reports have speculated that Scholz could on Thursday make his first trip to Kyiv since the start of the war. The mayor of Mariupol, Vadym Boychenko, has accused "traitors" of passing on vital information to Russian forces during the bombardment of the southern port city at the beginning of the invasion. Boychenko said the destruction of the city's critical infrastructure, including power supplies, was well-coordinated because Russia was provided with the coordinates.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 1,200 bodies, including those found in mass graves, have not yet been identified, according to the head of the national police in Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko. Criminal proceedings had been opened over the deaths of more than 12,000 Ukrainians, Klymenko said. About 75% of the dead were men, 2% children and the rest women, he said. • Russia earned €93bn in revenue from fossil fuel exports in the first 100 days of the war, according to research by Finland's Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (Crea). With 61% of these exports, worth €56bn (£48bn), going to the member states of the European Union, the bloc of countries remains Russia's largest export market. • Ukraine has lost a quarter of its arable land since the Russian invasion, notably in the south and east, deputy agriculture minister Taras Vysotskiy said. At a news conference on Monday, Vysotskiy insisted food security for the country's population was not under immediate threat: "Crop planting this year is more than sufficient [and] the current situation of crop planting areas ... does not pose a threat to Ukraine's food security". • The UN's rights chief, Michelle Bachelet, described the "arbitrary arrests" of a "large number" of anti-war protesters in Russia as "worrying". Speaking at the UN's human rights council in Geneva, Bachelet also expressed concern about the "increase of censorship and restrictions on independent media" in Russia. • Mikhail Kasyanov, Russia's prime minister from 2000 to 2004, has said he expects the war in Ukraine could last up to two years. Kasyanov, who championed close ties with the west while prime minister, said he felt that Vladimir Putin was already not thinking properly and that he was convinced Russia could return to a democratic path. • More than 15,000 millionaires are expected to flee Russia this year, as wealthy citizens turn their back on Putin's regime, according to an analysis of migration data by London-based firm Henley & Partners. • The Wikimedia Foundation, which owns Wikipedia, has filed an appeal against a Moscow court decision demanding that it remove information related to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The foundation arguing that people have a right to know the facts of the war and that removing information is a violation of human rights.
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HEADLINE	06/13 Yellowstone floods wipe out roads, bridges
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/yellowstone-entries-closed-for-flooding-visitors-evacuated/
GIST	<p>HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Massive floodwaters ravaged Yellowstone National Park and nearby communities Monday, washing out roads and bridges, cutting off electricity and forcing visitors to evacuate parts of the iconic park at the height of summer tourist season.</p> <p>All entrances to Yellowstone were closed due to the deluge, caused by heavy rains and melting snowpack, while park officials ushered tourists out of the most affected areas.</p> <p>There were no immediate reports of injuries, though dozens of stranded campers had to be rescued by raft in south-central Montana. Authorities also said they would be assessing a potential "loss of homes and structures" in Montana's Stillwater County.</p> <p>Elsewhere, some of the worst damage happened in the northern part of the Yellowstone and the park's gateway communities in southern Montana. National Park Service photos of northern Yellowstone showed a landslide, a bridge washed out over a creek, and roads badly undercut by churning floodwaters of the Gardner and Lamar rivers.</p> <p>The flooding cut off road access to Gardiner, Montana, a town of about 900 people near the confluence of the Yellowstone and Gardner rivers, just outside Yellowstone's busy North Entrance.</p> <p>At a cabin in Gardiner, visitor Parker Manning of Terra Haute, Indiana, got an up-close view of the water rising and the river bank sloughing off in the raging Yellowstone River floodwaters just outside his door.</p>

“We started seeing entire trees floating down the river, debris,” Manning told The Associated Press. “Saw one crazy single kayaker coming down through, which was kind of insane.”

The Yellowstone River at Corwin Springs crested at 13.88 feet (4.2 meters) Monday, higher than the previous record of 11.5 feet (3.5 meters) set in 1918, according to the National Weather Service.

Floodwaters inundated a street in Red Lodge, a Montana town of 2,100 that’s a popular jumping-off point for a scenic, winding route into the Yellowstone high country. Twenty-five miles (40 kilometers) to the northeast, in Joliet, Kristan Apodaca wiped away tears as she stood across the street from a washed-out bridge, The Billings Gazette reported.

The log cabin that belonged to her grandmother, who died in March, flooded, as did the park where Apodaca’s husband proposed.

“I am sixth-generation. This is our home,” she said. “That bridge I literally drove yesterday. My mom drove it at 3 a.m. before it was washed out.”

Yellowstone officials were evacuating the northern part of the park, where roads may remain impassable for a substantial length of time, park Superintendent Cam Sholly said in a statement.

But the flooding affected the rest of the park, too, with park officials warning of yet higher flooding and potential problems with water supplies and wastewater systems at developed areas.

“We will not know timing of the park’s reopening until flood waters subside and we’re able to assess the damage throughout the park,” Sholly said in the statement.

The park’s gates will be closed at least through Wednesday, officials said. It was unclear how many visitors have been forced to leave the park.

The rains hit right as summer tourist season was ramping up. June, at the onset of an annual wave of over 3 million visitors that doesn’t abate until fall, is one of Yellowstone’s busiest months.

Remnants of winter — in the form of snow still melting off and rushing off the mountains — made for an especially bad time to get heavy rain.

Yellowstone got 2.5 inches (6 centimeters) of rain Saturday, Sunday and into Monday. The Beartooth Mountains northeast of Yellowstone got as much as 4 inches (10 centimeters), according to the National Weather Service.

“It’s a lot of rain, but the flooding wouldn’t have been anything like this if we didn’t have so much snow,” said Cory Mottice, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Billings, Montana. “This is flooding that we’ve just never seen in our lifetimes before.”

The rain will likely abate while cooler temperatures lessen snowmelt in coming days, Mottice said.

In south-central Montana, flooding on the Stillwater River stranded 68 people at a campground. Stillwater County Emergency Services agencies and crews with the Stillwater Mine rescued people Monday from the Woodbine Campground by raft. Some roads in the area were closed due to flooding, and residents have been evacuated.

“We will be assessing the loss of homes and structures when the waters recede,” the sheriff’s office said in a statement.

The flooding happened while other parts of the U.S. burned in hot and dry weather. More than 100 million Americans were being warned to stay indoors as a heat wave settles over states stretching through parts of the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes and east to the Carolinas.

	<p>Elsewhere in the West, crews from California to New Mexico battled wildfires in hot, dry and windy weather.</p> <p>Scientists say climate change is responsible for more intense and more frequent extreme events such as storms, droughts, floods and wildfires, though single weather events usually cannot be directly linked to climate change without extensive study.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Record-setting heat wave expands east
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/06/13/heatwave-records-storms-derecho/
GIST	<p>A massive heat wave that has set scores of temperature records from Texas to California is swelling into the eastern United States. Over 100 million Americans from the Gulf Coast to the Great Lakes are under heat alerts through the middle of the week as temperatures soar toward the triple digits.</p> <p>Oppressive humidity levels will make it feel 5 to 15 degrees hotter, producing heat index values from 100 to 115 degrees over a large swath of the central and eastern Lower 48.</p> <p>Heat advisories or excessive-heat watches and warnings cover the entirety of Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois and Indiana and parts of more than a dozen other states.</p> <p>The National Weather Service forecasts that temperatures could challenge records in more than 100 cities through Wednesday, from Denver to Charleston, S.C.</p> <p>The heat is projected to be most prolonged and intense in the middle of the country.</p> <p>Relentless heat is forecast in St. Louis, where the mercury is predicted to hit at least 100 each of these days – with heat index values up to 113. It is under an excessive-heat warning for “dangerously hot conditions,” according to the Weather Service.</p> <p>The sultry air is simultaneously fueling the risk for severe thunderstorms along the northern periphery of the heat wave. The Weather Service was carefully monitoring the potential for the development of a violent complex of storms that could sweep from the Upper Midwest into the Ohio Valley and the Mid-Atlantic on Monday afternoon into early Tuesday.</p> <p>Forecasts into next week call for the punishing heat wave to persist over the central states. Heat waves such as this are staples of summer, but their impacts are made more severe and prolonged by human-caused climate change.</p> <p>The excessive heat is the result of an intense and sprawling zone of high pressure, sometimes referred to as a heat dome.</p> <p>The dome, centered over the Southwest on Saturday, has since shifted east. On Monday, it was hovering over the lower Mississippi Valley, placing much of the eastern half of the country, aside from the Northeast, in its crosshairs. By Wednesday, it will shuffle toward Nashville before oozing west again.</p> <p>On Monday, readings above 100 degrees are forecast for most of Texas, with upper 90s from the Corn Belt all the way east to the Carolinas. Record-challenging highs near 100 are forecast in Denver; Dallas; Omaha, Neb.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Charlotte, N.C., among many other locations.</p> <p>Temperatures in the upper 90s to near 100 could make it as far north as Minneapolis on Tuesday, with 98 in Atlanta, 97 in Chicago and 101 degrees in Raleigh, N.C. Columbia, S.C., could hit 102 degrees.</p> <p>The combination of heat and humidity in Charlotte on Tuesday and Wednesday – producing heat index values near 110 – may be the most intense there since 2010.</p>

On Wednesday, temperatures in the upper 90s will be ubiquitous from the central Plains and Texas through the eastern Great Lakes, Midwest and interior Mid-Atlantic and Appalachians, as well as the Southeast. Records could threaten the zone from roughly Flint, Mich., through Columbus, Ohio, and Knoxville, Tenn., to Atlanta.

The heat isn't going anywhere anytime soon. It may shift west a bit and consolidate over the central states late this week into the weekend. The Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center projects a continuation of above-normal temperatures in the central states over the next two weeks.

Along the northern periphery of the heat dome, where the sweltering heat meets cooler air, the resulting temperature contrast is anticipated to brew severe thunderstorms. Storms were already apparent midday Monday in the Upper Midwest and Great Lakes.

Concern was growing that a bow echo, or curved squall line capable of producing damaging straight-line winds, would organize and propagate south and east Monday afternoon and night through the Upper Midwest and Ohio Valley. The Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center placed the zone from Wisconsin to northern West Virginia at greatest risk from this possible thunderstorm complex, or mesoscale convective system (MCS).

"It appears possible that a long-lived bowing MCS could result in a swath of considerable wind damage along this corridor," wrote the Storm Prediction Center, which also cautioned that large hail and a few tornadoes were possible. Cities in the elevated-risk corridor include Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Indianapolis, Columbus, Cleveland and Pittsburgh.

There's an outside chance the MCS meets the criteria of a derecho, which is a fast-moving, extensive, long-lived and violent thunderstorm complex.

It's unclear whether the storm complex will survive its trip over the Appalachians on Monday night, and what the repercussions would be for areas east, but it's worth watching the area for the late overnight into an early-morning Tuesday time frame.

Thereafter, another such complex could develop over the Upper Midwest or Great Lakes and shift into the interior Northeast late Wednesday into Thursday.

As the heat spread over the zone from Texas to California's Central Valley late last week into the weekend, it set a slew of records.

Phoenix nabbed a trio of daily high-temperature records in a row – 113 on Friday, 114 on Saturday and 112 degrees on Sunday. The average high there this time of year is about 105 degrees.

On Friday, the morning low in Phoenix didn't dip below 87 degrees, meaning that, when factored in with the afternoon high of 113, the day's average temperature was 100 degrees. That's the earliest triple-digit daily average temperature on record in Phoenix.

Las Vegas hit 109 on Friday and Saturday, tying or breaking records, and Salt Lake City made it to 102 on Saturday and 103 degrees on Sunday. That also broke records.

Denver soared to 100 on Saturday, a tie for its earliest instance on a record touching the century mark.

In Texas, sweltering days and sultry nights set dozens of records. Dallas saw a morning low of 80 degrees on Sunday, a record-high minimum temperature. Elevated overnight temperatures often play an even greater role than daytime highs in amplifying heat stress on the body and contributing to heat-related illnesses and fatalities of vulnerable populations. Dallas then hit a record high of 103 degrees Sunday afternoon.

	<p>Abilene, Texas, saw three daily records in a row – 102 degrees on Friday, 108 on Saturday and 109 by Sunday. San Antonio also tied or broke records those days at 101, 104 and 105 degrees, respectively, as did Austin, at 101 degrees Thursday, 103 degrees Friday, 104 on Saturday and 105 by Sunday.</p> <p>In Houston and Galveston, Texas, the heat has been overlapping with oppressive humidity, contributing to heat indexes in the 105-to-110-degree range.</p> <p>It could be worse, however: Southeast Oklahoma saw heat index values in the incredible 120-degree range Saturday. That was because of air temperatures around 105 combined with dew points, a measure of humidity, in the upper 70s to near 80.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Climate change, wastewater treatment plant
SOURCE	https://www.king5.com/article/tech/science/environment/west-point-treatment-plant-seattle-climate-change-storms/281-f5617ec4-f0cb-4c0d-9ee5-0f1d8b0668b4
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Millions of gallons of wastewater from homes and businesses from Seattle to parts of south Snohomish County are treated at King County's West Point Treatment Plant every day, with the city's combined storm-water/wastewater sewer system also flowing in.</p> <p>Right now, around two dozen major construction projects are underway -- part of a series of upgrades totaling more than \$600 million over the next ten years. The projects will bolster the treatment plant against more frequent, more severe storms forecast to come with climate change.</p> <p>Projects will replace pumps and pipes, ensure earthquake resiliency and improve the power supply to the treatment plant.</p> <p>"We receive all of the flow, all the sewage from Seattle up to Snohomish County, down to the airport," said Operations Supervisor Sean Kehoe. "That's a lot of domestic and industrial wastewater and we're here 24/7, we're here every day of the year, and frankly, we do a great job."</p> <p>The treatment plant is looking to reduce power sags and handle the effects of stronger storms, including higher wind and rain volumes.</p> <p>"Climate change expectations are probably one of our biggest challenges right now," Wastewater Treatment Division Communications Lead Marie Fiore said.</p> <p>A power quality project will provide backup power from "uninterruptible sources," Fiore said, which will help the plant weather possible power disruption concerns, which have been an issue in the past.</p> <p>Along with power system upgrades, Kehoe says there is retrofitting work being done for seismic sustainability. They're also updating monitoring systems with tools made available as technology has improved.</p> <p>"Most of the changes we're doing are to increase resiliency," Kehoe said. "And there's a lot of emphasis on preventing spills into the Sound."</p> <p>Kehoe says they're also replacing gas lines and fixing things that, over time, wear out and have risk involved -- all of the necessities with a plant that is now more than fifty years old.</p>
	Return to Top <i>You can learn more about the work underway here.</i>

HEADLINE	06/13 Taiwan ponders: country ready for war?
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/world/asia/china-taiwan-ukraine-military.html
GIST	TAIPEI, Taiwan — Russia's brutal war in Ukraine has jolted Taiwan into confronting the specter of a sudden attack from the island's own larger and more powerful neighbor: China.

The invasion has given new weight to the authoritarian vision of China's leader, Xi Jinping, who has long laid claim to self-governed Taiwan for the "rejuvenation" of China — much as President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia did with Ukraine. To many in Taiwan, Ukraine has been a lesson in the [tactics and weaponry](#) that could slow a more powerful invading force. It has also been a stark warning that the island may be inadequately prepared for a full-scale attack.

Taiwan's defenses are, by many accounts, ill-equipped and understaffed. Its president, Tsai Ing-wen, has vowed to defend the island, but she has struggled to impose a new strategic vision on the uniformed leadership.

Taiwan spends billions on fighter jets and submarines, yet its conscripts barely get enough ammunition for training. The mandatory military service is seen by many as too short, and the reservist program, insufficiently rigorous. The military is building a professional force, but has struggled to recruit and retain highly skilled soldiers.

Now, Ukraine has been an impetus for change.

When Wu Chiu-an-syun, a computer engineer in Taipei, gathered with other army reservists in a dense, humid forest in central Taiwan in March, they trained longer and harder than soldiers like them had in recent years. Nearly every day, he said, his commanders would remind the men that the threat from China was growing.

"Ukraine showed us that you need to first show to others that you have the resolve to defend yourself; only then will others come and help," Mr. Wu, 31, said.

Underlying Taiwan's defense dilemma is a question left [unanswerable by design](#): Will the United States send military forces to Taiwan's aid? In May, President Biden [suggested he would](#), but the United States offers no explicit security guarantees, a strategy it hopes will avoid either provoking Beijing or emboldening Taiwan to declare formal independence.

Mr. Xi has said he seeks a peaceful unification with Taiwan, and he may be deterred by the huge economic and diplomatic blowback China would suffer for an invasion. But China has also been pointed in its warnings. Its defense minister, Gen. Wei Fenghe, said over the weekend that Beijing would "[fight to the very end](#)" for Taiwan. It is [sending fighter jets](#) toward the island almost daily — including 30 aircraft in one day last month alone.

The concern is that such maneuvers could, intentionally or otherwise, be a prelude to conflict.

"We cannot wait; we are competing with time," said Michael Tsai, a former defense minister of Taiwan. "Russia's invasion of Ukraine happened in an instant — who knows when the P.L.A. might choose to invade Taiwan."

The 'Porcupine Strategy'

Several military drills conducted in January were intended as a show of force to China — to demonstrate how Taiwan planned to stop invaders from intruding on its airspace, landing on its beaches and, in the worst case, taking over its cities.

At an air base in central Taiwan, a siren wailed, and within minutes pilots were taking off in F-16 fighter jets to ward off intruders. Off the northern coast, the navy debuted new mine-laying craft as two small warships fired live ammunition. In a southern city, smoke filled the air as soldiers practicing urban combat shuffled past fake storefronts of bubble tea shops and cafes, exchanging gunfire with combatants.

The drills also reflected a continuing conflict at the heart of Taiwan's defense strategy.

The original idea, after Nationalist leaders fled to Taiwan in 1949, was to one day reclaim the mainland.

For decades, even as that prospect dimmed, Taiwan had approached the threat of an invasion by China by buying or developing traditional, expensive weapons, like the fighter jets showcased at the air base. But Taiwan has been outgunned by China, which [invested heavily](#) to build what is now one of the world's largest militaries.

Seeing the growing imbalance, American officials and some Taiwan strategists have [recently accelerated efforts to push Taiwan](#) to instead amass a large number of smaller weapons. That includes naval craft such as the ships in the drill that can quickly [lay sea mines](#) to block forces trying to land.

Advocates of the strategy argue that Taiwan, like Ukraine, could easily deploy [Stinger missiles](#), which can be shoulder-launched at aircraft, and portable Harpoon missiles, which can attack ships. Unlike tanks and large battleships, these are hard to target and destroy.

"The idea is to become so hard to swallow that the enemy thinks twice about launching any action," said Lee Hsi-min, former chief of Taiwan's Navy and chief of the general staff, who has been [among the most vocal proponents](#) in Taiwan for the so-called asymmetric approach.

An all-out assault on Taiwan, involving air, naval and land forces, [would be more complex](#) than Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but some [American](#) and [Taiwanese](#) defense officials think that in the coming years Beijing would be able to pull it off.

The [hope](#) is that if deterrence fails, the so-called [porcupine strategy](#) could allow Taiwan to buy time for the United States to possibly help. [President Tsai said in 2019](#) that Taiwan would be able to hold out for 24 hours, and that China would then face international pressure.

Ms. Tsai has [purchased Harpoon missiles](#) and other weapons in line with the strategic shift, but she [faces resistance](#) from some military leaders. They argue that smaller weapons are not useful for standing up to China in visible ways. Long-range missiles capable of striking the mainland could deter Beijing, the [military leaders say](#). Fighter jets can respond when Chinese forces buzz near Taiwan. The larger platforms are also politically popular.

Should China invade, Taiwan's defenses will almost certainly crumble unless the [United States and its allies help](#). Some in Taiwan consider it too risky to give up their most lethal weapons without concrete promises of support.

"We can't be sure that the U.S. will come to rescue us," said Ou Si-fu, a research fellow at the Institute for National Defense and Security Research, a think tank affiliated with Taiwan's defense ministry. "Hence, Taiwan needs some strike capabilities. Otherwise, you are binding your hands and waiting to die."

Improving the Soldiers

Last fall, Hu Yu-huan, 25, reported for his mandatory military service, eager to learn how to defend his homeland. What he found was not boot camp but summer camp.

When he and his fellow conscripts jogged, the pace was set by the slowest man, who tired after 100 yards. They spent hours clearing weeds and sweeping. Mr. Hu, a half-marathon runner, said the four months of service left him 13 pounds heavier and in "the worst shape of my life."

As Taiwan democratized in the late 1980s, newly elected officials cut the defense budgets, leading to a shrinking force. Taiwan has only around 169,000 active-duty military personnel and around 2 million reservists, compared with China's two million active-duty soldiers.

The island's leaders have been seeking to [phase out conscription](#) in favor of a professional all-volunteer force. Taiwan's defense ministry said in a statement that it had reached more than 95 percent of its recruitment goals last year. But experts say the military's authoritarian legacy, along with the relatively low pay, has [made it hard](#) to attract skilled recruits.

Combat training has also been widely criticized as perfunctory, whether for the men over 18 doing mandatory service, like Mr. Hu, or for the reservists. Three decades ago, conscripts had to train for up to three years and run about three miles a day. Now, they serve for four months and run fewer than two miles per day, if at all, according to experts and recent trainees.

Col. Sun Li-fang, a spokesman for Taiwan's defense ministry, said that physical fitness requirements for conscripts were eased in line with scientific guidance and the military had to take safety into account in designing its training.

The Tsai administration is [considering extending](#) the length of military service to up to a year. It is testing a refresher program for reservists that is two weeks long instead of one, with more hours spent on combat training.

Mr. Wu, the computer engineer, was among the first to take part in the new program. In addition to shooting practice, Mr. Wu said, he and the other reservists trekked on mountain roads to test the group's ability to carry heavy weapons for long periods of time. By the end, Mr. Wu said, he felt ready for war.

"As long as I have a gun," he said, "I'll be ok."

'The Tip of the Spear'

On Taiwanese talk shows, pundits and officials debate the probability of a Chinese invasion. In the legislature, lawmakers fret about the preparedness of Taiwan's troops. In messaging groups, activists discuss ways to involve the public in the island's defense.

The new urgency reflects a sharp change in attitudes in Taiwan, where many had long been indifferent to China's advances, resigned to defeat or blindly optimistic about support from the United States.

Ms. Tsai has sought to leverage the Ukraine conflict to push her agenda. She [appointed a team of experts](#) to study Ukraine's strategy. The question is whether she can push through potentially unpopular changes, such as further raising military spending, currently at just over 2 percent of Taiwan's gross domestic product.

"We cannot see the suffering of the Ukrainian people as news only," said Alexander Huang, a professor at Tamkang University's Institute of International Affairs and Strategic Studies. "It's got to be a lesson that we need to learn."

Mr. Lee, the former navy chief, and others have urged Taiwan to create a [territorial defense force](#) made up of civilians, [similar to that of Ukraine's](#).

A trained civilian force could be the "tip of the spear" in Taiwan's defense, said Enoch Wu, founder of Forward Alliance, a [nongovernmental group](#) that holds civil defense workshops. "That's what's going to make or break Taiwan."

Some citizens are making their own preparations.

On a recent Saturday, about two dozen people simulated a gunfight in a parking lot near Taipei in a class run by PolarLight, a company that teaches basic first aid and shooting skills, using realistic airsoft guns.

They crept around parked cars and buses, aiming their [airsoft rifles](#) at imaginary opponents. Some fell to the ground, while others rushed in to move them to safety and apply tourniquets.

Danny Shi, a 21-year-old student at a military academy, said that he had signed up because he was worried that he was not getting enough practical experience at school. He said he wanted to be ready for the worst. "As a Taiwanese person," he said, "I think we should be more serious about preparing for war."

HEADLINE	06/13 Europe weighs goals: peace, punishment
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/world/europe/ukraine-weapons-europe-peace.html
GIST	<p>BRUSSELS — Losing ground to Russia’s brutal advance in the east, Ukraine on Monday demanded an arsenal of sophisticated Western weapons many times greater than what has been promised, or even discussed, underscoring the rising pressure on Western leaders to reconsider their approach to the war.</p> <p>The tactics that served the Ukrainians well early in the war have not been nearly as effective as the fighting has shifted to the open ground of the Donbas region in the east, where Russians are relying on their immense advantage in long-range artillery. Russian forces are poised to take the blasted city of Sievierodonetsk, the easternmost Ukrainian outpost, and are closing in on the neighboring city of Lysychansk.</p> <p>With the leaders of France, Germany and Italy planning their first visit to Ukraine’s capital, Kyiv, since the war began, they and other Western leaders have to decide whether to double down on arming Ukraine or press harder for negotiations with Moscow to end the war.</p> <p>Ivan Krastev, who heads the Center for Liberal Strategies in Sofia, Bulgaria, calls the divisions in Europe a struggle between the “justice party,” strongest in the east, that wants Russian forces pushed back and punished, and the “peace party,” strongest in the west, that wants the war to end quickly, minimizing the short-term human and economic damage.</p> <p>President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine, calling for more arms and insisting that his country must regain every scrap of lost territory, is putting himself more adamantly than ever in the justice camp.</p> <p>In an interview, a top adviser to Mr. Zelensky on Monday sharply ramped up his country’s urgent calls for more and faster delivery of more modern weapons and gear from NATO countries. Suffering heavy losses of soldiers and equipment in Donbas, Ukrainian forces are running out of ammunition for their Soviet-era artillery, and Ukrainian officials contend that Russian artillery in the east is out-firing their own, 10 to 1.</p> <p>Mykhailo Podolyak, the Zelensky adviser, said Ukraine needs 300 mobile multiple rocket-launch systems, 1,000 howitzers, 500 tanks, 2,000 armored vehicles and 1,000 drones to achieve parity with Russia in the Donbas region where fighting is concentrated — numbers many times beyond anything that has been publicly discussed in the West. The United States has promised four of the mobile rocket launchers and Britain a few more; Washington has sent a little more than 100 howitzers, and other nations a few dozen more.</p> <p>Such immense requests may not be realistic or practical — the howitzers, for example, are arriving faster than Ukrainians can be trained to use them — but Mr. Podolyak, Mr. Zelensky and others clearly mean to keep up the pressure on the West, complaining daily that the current arms flow is woefully inadequate.</p> <p>“If you think we should lose, just tell us directly ‘we want you to lose,’ then we will understand why you give us weapons at this level,” Mr. Podolyak said in an interview in the sandbagged presidential office compound in Kyiv.</p> <p>Western leaders agree that Ukraine’s ability to fight back against the Russian invasion will depend to a large degree on how fast and in what quantities their countries can supply heavy weapons. They have imposed tough economic sanctions on Russia, supplied significant financial and military aid to Ukraine, and insisted publicly that it is up to Ukraine’s own, democratically elected leaders to decide how and when to negotiate with Russia.</p> <p>But they also worry that a long war will bring in NATO countries and even cause President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia to escalate what has been a brutal but conventional campaign. President Emmanuel Macron of France, in particular, has twice said it was important not to “humiliate Russia.”</p> <p>European officials also worry about the damage being done to their own economies by inflation and high energy prices, and about the likely domestic political backlash. And many in Europe are eager to find a</p>

way, even if it's a temporary cease-fire, to resume Ukrainian grain exports as global food prices soar and parts of the world face [a threat of famine](#).

Such talk raises hackles in Kyiv and in the capitals of Central and Eastern Europe where Russia is most feared, and officials questioned how committed their friends to the west are to beating back Mr. Putin's aggression. Leaders of several countries that were once part of the Soviet bloc believe this war is about more than Ukraine, and that the Kremlin's ambitions to re-establish that sphere of influence and overthrow the European security order must be met with defeat, not a cease-fire.

Europeans expect the conflict to continue, with neither side ready or willing to engage in meaningful negotiations until the fighting either bogs down or one side gains a decisive advantage. The question may be what outcome, if any, might allow both sides to claim a victory.

The European Union is seriously weighing whether to quickly make Ukraine an official candidate for membership despite its history of corruption and poor governance — something Mr. Zelensky dearly wants, both to bind his country more tightly to the West and to improve its devastated economy. What European diplomats do not know is whether that might make Ukraine more willing to make concessions to end the war.

And it is not clear that anything short of total victory would satisfy Mr. Putin, no matter the cost — nor is it clear how he would define that.

A trip to Kyiv by Mr. Macron, Chancellor Olaf Scholz of Germany and Prime Minister Mario Draghi of Italy has not been officially confirmed, and specific dates are being kept secret for security reasons, but it would take place before the Group of 7 summit meeting set to begin June 26.

A meeting with Mr. Zelensky in Kyiv would have obvious symbolism, displaying the support of these large, rich West European countries for Ukraine's defense, its territorial integrity and its hopes for a European future. The three are likely to announce new arms supplies for Ukraine and discuss various options to help Ukraine export its grain from the blockaded port of Odesa.

Whether there will be any talk of a cease-fire or negotiations is unclear.

Under questioning, a spokesman for Mr. Macron, briefing reporters anonymously, said that France wants Ukraine to be victorious — but Mr. Macron has himself never said those words publicly. And Mr. Scholz, who has been criticized for not supplying more arms, faster, to Ukraine, says that Russia must not win — but has never said that Ukraine must achieve victory.

Mr. Draghi has broken with an Italian tradition of closeness to Moscow by strongly supporting Ukraine, even for membership in the European Union, a subject Mr. Macron has said is unrealistic for decades but will be a major issue in the next European Union summit meeting later this month.

European officials are discussing whether E.U. countries, in combination with Turkey and countries that need the grain, like Egypt, can arrange some sort of naval escort for ships exporting food.

Ukraine and Russia met for cease-fire talks early in the war, but the discussions yielded nothing, with each side accusing the other of not being serious about peace. Ukrainian officials now say that talks with Russia would be premature, potentially cementing into place Russian gains and in effect rewarding aggression.

Early in the war, particularly in the north, the outgunned Ukrainians inflicted punishing losses on Russia using weapons like shoulder-fired antitank missiles. With Russian forces in Donbas now more reluctant to be drawn into short-range combat, that tactic no longer works.

An increasing flow of Western weapons and ammunition, Ukrainians say, can help them turn the tide in the east — or at the very least stop the Russian advance — as Russian forces suffer heavy casualties and run out of their own more advanced weapons.

But few believe that this war is anywhere near a conclusion, or that either side is close to collapse, even as the economies of both Russia and Ukraine continue to suffer.

Russian forces pushed into the center of Sievierodonetsk, the Ukrainian military said on Monday, as street battles raged in the ruined, largely abandoned city. Ukrainian officials want to make the capture of the city as costly as possible to the Russians in men and matériel, but fear it could soon be surrounded, trapping a large number of Ukrainian troops.

Even if Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk fall, completing the Russian takeover of the Luhansk region, Ukraine is still battling for control of parts of the neighboring Donetsk region, and, in counteroffensives, its forces have retaken territory around Kharkiv in the northeast and Kherson in the south.

Andrew A. Michta, a German-based American political scientist, argues that the peace party in Europe is missing a historic opportunity to deliver a pointed message to Mr. Putin, who has openly compared himself to Peter the Great, the first Russian ruler to declare himself emperor.

“The defense of Ukraine is not only about national sovereignty and territorial integrity — historically, the two foundational principles of democratic governance — but ultimately about pushing Russia out of Europe, thereby ending three centuries of its imperial drive,” Mr. Michta wrote for Politico.

“For the first time in the modern era,” he wrote, “it would force Moscow to come to terms with what it takes, economically and politically, to become a ‘normal’ nation-state.”

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HEADLINE	06/13 Nuclear disarmament: thing of the past?
SOURCE	https://www.dw.com/en/nuclear-weapons-disarmament-is-a-thing-of-the-past/a-62092327
GIST	<p>The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute warns of a new worldwide nuclear arms race, with China rushing ahead. Activists in the anti-nuclear movement are becoming lonely figures.</p> <p>Every Tuesday, Rüdiger Lancelle gets into his car and drives to the Bundeswehr air base in Büchel in western Germany. The 83-year-old peace activist sits down on a camping chair in front of the gate and holds a vigil. His goal: "That the weapons lying in Büchel get removed and be scrapped," he tells DW on the phone.</p> <p>About 20 nuclear bombs are stored in Büchel and would be deployed by German fighter pilots in the event of an attack. Lancelle protests against this so-called "nuclear sharing."</p> <p>Just six months ago, it looked as if peace activists like Lancelle had most Germans on their side. A "Germany free of nuclear weapons" had also been set as a goal of the new government by the center-left Social Democrats, environmentalist Greens, and neoliberal Free Democrats. After the Russian attack on Ukraine and nuclear threats from Moscow, that now seems to be water under the bridge.</p> <p>In a recent survey commissioned by the public broadcaster ARD, 52% of those polled said they were now in favor of keeping the US nuclear weapons in Germany. Over 1,300 people were polled from May 30 to June 1. In a similar survey a year ago, the figure was just 14%.</p> <p>Are Germans learning to love the bomb? To Lancelle, it feels that way: "I always put a chair next to my chair to invite people to talk. But so far, no one has come to say: yes, you're right."</p> <p>New weapons for the nuclear arsenal</p> <p>Starting in 2023, the nuclear weapons in Büchel are to be replaced by the new B61-12 model. This modern bomb can not only be guided to the target, but also has a variable yield ranging from 0.3 to 340 kilotons (the "Fat Man" bomb dropped on Nagasaki was 25 kilotons). Critics fear that this variability could lower the inhibition threshold for actually using this weapon.</p>

The US is spending about \$10 billion to modernize its nuclear bombs. Germany, for its part, is investing billions of euros in new F-35 jets to carry them.

The trend is general, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which on Monday published a major report, warning of a new nuclear arms race.

It found that after decades of nuclear disarmament, all nuclear powers are currently spending a lot of money on new nuclear warheads and associated delivery systems, such as long-range missiles, ships, submarines, and aircraft.

SIPRI researcher Hans Kristensen and his colleagues have spent years estimating the nuclear weapon inventories of the world's nuclear-armed states. The current total is understood to be 12,705, with over 90% owned by Russia and the United States.

"[Nuclear states] are super busy modernizing their arsenals", Kristensen, who is also director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, told DW. "Both to extend the versions they have, but also to introduce new kinds. Countries are beginning to adhere more importance to nuclear weapons."

China wants to join the top nuclear league

One country, in particular, stands out: China. "The Chinese increase is the most significant buildup in the world right now in terms of numbers," said Kristensen. "It's completely unprecedented by Chinese standards. We don't know why China is doing this for the simple reason that China doesn't want to talk about it."

In the past two years, Kristensen and his colleagues have identified some 300 newly built silos for ballistic missiles in Chinese deserts from satellite imagery. "Perhaps China fears that its existing arsenal would not survive a US nuclear strike," Kristensen says. "Maybe it's also a reaction to the fact that [missile defense systems will be better in the future](#) and China wants to be able to overcome such systems with more warheads." In any case, he said, one thing is certain: President Xi Jinping wants a "world-class" army — and that apparently means one that is nuclear-armed.

New risks

That's why it would be important to commit China to a maximum number of nuclear weapons with international treaties, Kristensen says. "However, the Chinese have not been interested so far. They have rejected the proposals."

Soon, the US and Russia won't have to stick to limits either. That's because the "New Start" agreement — the "Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty" — expires in 2026. Of what was once a comprehensive system of arms control treaties, "New Start" is the only remaining element. It limits the number of strategic nuclear weapons such as long-range missiles. "Given Russia's Ukraine war and the evolution of the Republican Party in the US, a successor agreement is unlikely," Kristensen believes.

That is why a new nuclear competition between China, Russia and the United States seems likely. "And then we have the very dynamic new nuclear weapons countries like India, Pakistan and North Korea," Kristensen said. The risk of nuclear war is thus much higher than it was a decade ago, he added. "We are living in a new era of nuclear risk."

These risks are currently being described in particularly graphic terms on Russian state television. "If everything continues as it is, only a few mutants will survive in Lake Baikal," presenter Vladimir Solovyov said on channel Russia-1 recently. "The rest of the world will go down in a massive nuclear strike."

	<p>A world free of nuclear weapons is therefore likely to be a very distant prospect. This is also clear to Lancelle, the German peace activist. "Yes, it's like tilting at windmills," he says. As a Christian, however, he says he is obliged to advocate nonviolence. "I know no other weapon than prayer."</p> <p>That's why Lancelle wants to continue sitting outside the gate in Büchel in his protest against nuclear weapons — quietly, and probably alone.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Seattle's rainy June continues
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/weather/seattles-rainy-june-continues-heres-what-to-expect-this-week/
GIST	<p>The Seattle area's rain totals continue to inch up the record boards during a June that is well above normal.</p> <p>Seattle-Tacoma International Airport reached 2.31 inches during the first dozen days of June, although the National Weather Service said that's still a ways away from the monthly record of 3.9 inches reached in 1946.</p> <p>The National Weather Service is not forecasting any more big rains like Thursday's record-breaking storm. However, lighter showers are expected here and there over the next week, beginning with the sprinkles that touched Seattle on Sunday.</p> <p>Temperatures should stay mild as well. The chance of rain will increase Monday, which is forecast to only reach a high of 60 and a low of 50, and continue into Tuesday. It's expected that the back half of the week will see the return of temperatures in the mid-to-upper 60s, according to the weather service.</p> <p>Meteorologists have been tracking a wet spring, with monitoring stations reporting far more precipitation than you'd expect for this period of June.</p> <p>At the Olympia airport, monthly totals have reached 2.71 inches, a huge 2.06 inches above normal. Hoquiam is sitting 2.59 inches above normal, and precipitation totals for the month have reached 3.48 inches. The Bellingham airport has seen 2.88 inches, a departure of 2.21 inches from normal.</p> <p>And the weather forecasting office near the University of Washington has seen 2.32 inches, a 1.64 inch departure from normal.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Child care workers \$7M one-time grant pay
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/king-county-seattle-to-give-7-million-in-payments-to-child-care-workers/
GIST	<p>King County and the city of Seattle will grant \$7 million in one-time payments to child care workers, citing low wages and high COVID-19 risk.</p> <p>Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell and King County Executive Dow Constantine announced a batch of jointly funded one-time payments for child care workers Monday morning, allocating \$5 million from the county's Best Start for Kids levy and \$2.4 million from the city's JumpStart tax to aid child care workers who make an average of about \$9 an hour less than the state median.</p> <p>"The pandemic reminded us all that child care providers are nothing short of heroic," Constantine said at a news conference outside the Community Day Center for Children in the Central District.</p> <p>"These dedicated professionals continued to show up day after day, knowing the risks, to bring normalcy and routine and, critically, social interaction to the lives of our youngest residents," he said.</p>

	<p>The payments are a necessary incentive as the toll of the pandemic and rising cost of living in Seattle and King County are pushing child care workers out of the industry, according to Susan Brown, president and CEO of Kids Co.</p> <p>“We’ve built a nonprofit child care organization that, pre-pandemic, was literally serving 900-1,400 kids annually,” Brown said. “But today we’re barely serving a fraction of that as a consequence of one very important thing: the challenge of finding people to do this work.”</p> <p>Brown said that while the one-time payments will help workers, it’s not enough to mend industry working conditions.</p> <p>“It’s hard, hard work for low pay, and we really need much greater investment from business and government to make the child care sector really thrive and work,” Brown said.</p> <p>The amount of individual payments will depend on the number of qualified applicants. Constantine said he anticipates about 9,000 applications.</p> <p>Full-time and part-time child care staff working at child care programs licensed through the Washington State Department of Children, Youth, and Families in King County can apply. Applications should be filled out by the employer or licensee by June 27.</p> <p>The grants will be distributed by the child care program to all eligible staff via the program’s payroll system, after applications are processed.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Russians control 80% Severodonetsk
SOURCE	https://www.newsmax.com/world/globaltalk/russia-ukraine-war/2022/06/14/id/1074301/
GIST	<p>Sievierodonetsk, the main focus of the fighting in eastern Ukraine in recent weeks, isn't yet blocked off by Russian troops even though they control about 80% of the city and have destroyed all three bridges leading out of it, an official said Tuesday.</p> <p>"There is still an opportunity for the evacuation of the wounded, communication with the Ukrainian military and local residents," Luhansk regional governor Serhiy Haidai told The Associated Press by phone.</p> <p>Still, Haidai acknowledged that the mass evacuation of civilians now is "simply not possible" due to the relentless shelling and fighting in the city. Ukrainian forces have been pushed out to the industrial outskirts of the city because of "the scorched earth method and heavy artillery the Russians are using," he said.</p> <p>About 12,000 people remain in Sievierodonetsk, a city with a pre-war population of 100,000. More than 500 civilians are sheltering in the Azot chemical plant, which is also being relentlessly pounded by the Russians, according to Haidai.</p> <p>In all, a total of 70 civilians have been evacuated from the Luhansk region over the past 24 hours, the governor said.</p> <p>Two people were killed and another wounded in the Luhansk region, according to Ukrainian authorities.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Kyiv moving sensitive data outside borders
SOURCE	https://www.wsj.com/articles/ukraine-has-begun-moving-sensitive-data-outside-its-borders-11655199002
GIST	Ukrainian government officials have begun storing sensitive data outside the country to protect it from Russian cyber and physical assault, and are negotiating with several European nations to move more databases abroad.

Since the start of the war, around 150 registries from different government ministries and offices, or backup copies of them, have been moved abroad or are in discussions to be transferred, said George Dubinskiy, Ukraine's deputy minister of digital transformation.

Previously, much of the government's information trove was held in data centers in Ukraine, and needed first to be moved to the cloud before backup copies could be transferred, he said. The government prioritized important databases to move from old legacy data-storage systems, and created copies of those registries for storage in clouds outside Ukraine, he said.

"To be on the safe side, we want to have our backups abroad," Mr. Dubinskiy said.

Moving databases to the cloud adds a layer of security because government officials can still access it even if a data center in Ukraine were demolished by Russian weapons, he said. The government specified legal and security provisions to help protect the databases from cyber and other threats, he added.

In the early days of the war, for instance, a government data center was damaged by Russian missiles, Mr. Dubinskiy said. But no data was lost because backups were available.

"It definitely was a red flag for us that we have somehow to save and secure our critical data storages," he said.

That threat has been overt since the invasion began. Russia struck a military base outside Kyiv on Feb. 24, the first day of the invasion, and has attacked Ukrainian government buildings since. Last month, the U.S., U.K., European Union and other countries blamed Russia for a cyberattack on a satellite-communications company the very day of the invasion, which took down internet service for thousands of Ukrainians and Europeans and disrupted remote-control systems for wind farms in Germany.

Russia has consistently denied launching cyberattacks. But its siege quickly crystallized the Ukrainian government's thinking on data protection: "In case of emergency, we need to make sure our IT systems continue operating," Victor Zhora, deputy chief of the country's State Service of Special Communication and Information Protection, said last month.

Ukraine is already storing some government data in Poland, in a specially designed private cloud, Mr. Dubinskiy said. He declined to elaborate on the technology, but said the server hosts only Ukrainian information, and Ukrainian and Polish officials tested it together. He is working on similar arrangements with other countries, including Estonia and France.

Mr. Dubinskiy's office gave priority to "VIP" databases—those necessary to support Ukraine's economy—to be moved first. Even during war, services for citizens, such as digital identification, need to continue and the government needs access to tax data and other information, he said.

"We're responsible for the personal data of our citizens, we're responsible for all sensitive data," he said. Whatever the cost, "it's a question of security."

Governments risk losing data completely or having it manipulated by hackers if they keep only one copy, and the physical and cyber risks only increase during a war, said Chris Kubecka, a cyberwarfare specialist at the Middle East Institute, a think tank in Washington.

"If someone attacks that single point of failure, well, great, fantastic for them. But not for you, the government. It's become a serious problem," said Ms. Kubecka, who visited Ukraine in the early weeks of the war, in part to consult on cybersecurity.

How a government classifies data and determines what is sensitive or risky can change during war, Ms. Kubecka said. Russia could use Ukrainians' personal data in malicious ways for strategic goals in regions it wants to take over. For instance, information on individuals could make it easier to track their movements and contacts.

	<p>Transferring sensitive government databases abroad entails reviewing legal and security requirements for protecting data, such as the level of encryption, Mr. Dubinskiy said. Some government registries are massive, with around 1.5 petabytes of data, and officials in some cases spent weeks designing a data storage system, testing it, then adjusting it, he said.</p> <p>Government officials overseeing the moving of data abroad need to consider whether they can trust the telecommunications networks enabling them to sync data kept in the cloud, Ms. Kubecka said. They should also clarify with their counterparts in the host country whether domestic cyber defense teams would step in to assist in a cyberattack, she added.</p> <p>That process could be expensive, and would require additional support staff to oversee exported data. “It’s not an overnight thing,” she said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 UK: 104 more monkeypox cases
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/uk-reports-104-cases-monkeypox-men-85357598
GIST	<p>LONDON -- British health officials have detected another 104 cases of monkeypox in England in what has become the biggest outbreak beyond Africa of the normally rare disease.</p> <p>The U.K.’s Health Security Agency said Monday there were now 470 cases of monkeypox across the country, with the vast majority in gay or bisexual men. Scientists warn that anyone, regardless of sexual orientation, is susceptible to catching monkeypox if they are in close, physical contact with an infected person or their clothing or bed sheets.</p> <p>According to U.K. data, 99% of the cases so far have been in men and most are in London.</p> <p>In May, a leading adviser to the World Health Organization said the monkeypox outbreak in Europe and beyond was likely spread by sex at two recent raves in Spain and Belgium.</p> <p>Last week, WHO said 1,285 cases of monkeypox had been reported from 28 countries where monkeypox was not known to be endemic. No deaths have been reported outside of Africa. After the U.K., the biggest numbers of cases have been reported in Spain, Germany and Canada.</p> <p>WHO said many people in the outbreak have “atypical features” of the disease which could make it more difficult for doctors to diagnose. The U.N. health agency also said while close contact can spread monkeypox, “it is not clear what role sexual bodily fluids, including semen and vaginal fluids, play in the transmission.”</p> <p>Meanwhile, countries in Africa have reported more than 1,500 suspected cases including 72 deaths from eight countries. Monkeypox is considered endemic in Central and West Africa.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Border agency: illegal entries to EU up 82%
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/border-agency-illegal-entries-eu-82-year-85357556
GIST	<p>WARSAW, Poland -- The number of detected illegal migration entries into the European Union in the first five months of 2022 was more than 86,000, or 82% more than in the same period in 2021, the agency monitoring the EU’s external borders said Monday.</p> <p>Crossings in May alone numbered some 23,500 — 75% up from May last year, according to preliminary data released by Frontex.</p> <p>The European Border and Coast Guard Agency said that the figure didn't include refugees from almost four months of war in Ukraine, whose number it pegged at some 5.5 million. They are authorized to enter the EU.</p>

	<p>The routes taken most often by migrants are through the Western Balkans, which accounted for almost 41,000 crossings, mostly migrants from Syria and Afghanistan, and through the Central and Eastern Mediterranean, where Egyptians, Bangladeshis, Tunisians, Nigerians and Congolese are common.</p> <p>The figures show the number of entries and do not take account of the fact that sometimes the same person makes multiple attempts.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Iran cargo jet stuck in Argentina
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/cargo-jet-iranian-crewmembers-stuck-argentina-85362714
GIST	<p>BUENOS AIRES, Argentina -- A jumbo jet-sized mystery has landed in the lap of Argentine officials, who are trying to determine what to do with a Venezuelan-owned Boeing 747 cargo plane with a load of automotive parts and an unusually large crew of 17, including at least five Iranians.</p> <p>The plane operated by Venezuela's state-owned Emtrasur cargo line has been stuck since June 6 at Buenos Aires' main international airport, unable to depart because of U.S. sanctions against Iran. and suspicions about its crew.</p> <p>Security Minister Aníbal Fernández said Monday that the government and legal authorities are studying the situation.</p> <p>He said foreign intelligence agencies “advised that part of the crew belonged to companies related to the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guard of Iran,” which has been officially listed as a terrorist organization by the U.S. government since 2007.</p> <p>He also said that the plane's operators had reported a smaller number of crewmembers than were actually aboard — an unusually large contingent for a cargo plane. It was carrying parts for an automotive assembly plant, though he did not specify which one.</p> <p>Until being sold to Emtrasur about a year ago, the plane had been owned by Mahan Air of Iran, a line the U.S. government has sanctioned for allegedly aiding the Quds Force and terrorist activities. Numerous foreign companies over the years have been sanctioned for doing business with Mahan.</p> <p>A spokesman for Mahan Air, Hossein Zolanvari, earlier told the state-run IRNA news agency that his company sold the Boeing to a Venezuelan company about a year ago.</p> <p>“Mentioning Mahan Air in connection with the impounded airplane has aimed at political purposes,” he said. He said the plane’s crew also have no connection to Mahan Air.</p> <p>The plane's crewmembers have been lodged at a hotel and Fernandez said the Venezuelans are free to leave if they want, while the Iranians can move about in the capital.</p> <p>Fernandez said the plane had stopped in Paraguay in May. On June 6, it was headed for Ezeiza airport on the outskirts of Buenos Aires, but climatic conditions forced it to stop instead in the city of Cordoba before finally reaching the Argentine capital, where it attracted the attention of immigration authorities, who confiscated the crew's passports.</p> <p>Emtrasur began flying this year, operating out of the Venezuelan military's Libertador Air Base.</p> <p>Flight tracking services show the plane also had made stops in earlier months in Mexico and Venezuela.</p> <p>Argentina itself has suffered from terror attacks that authorities blame on Iran, notably a 1992 explosion at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and another at a Jewish organization in 1994. Argentina is seeking the arrest of several Iranian officials, though Iran denies involvement.</p>

HEADLINE	06/13 US sanctions 93 more Nicaragua officials
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/us-sanctions-93-nicaraguan-officials-crackdown-85366880
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- The U.S. State Department imposed visa restrictions Monday on 93 more Nicaraguan officials for their role in supporting the regime of President Daniel Ortega.</p> <p>Ortega jailed dozens of opposition figures in order to win a fourth consecutive term in Nov. 7 elections that were broadly criticized as a farce. He has also outlawed dozens of nongovernmental organizations.</p> <p>Since then, dozens of opponents have been tried or convicted in brief trials on vague charges equivalent to treason.</p> <p>The State Department announced it had pulled the visas of judges who convicted the opposition leaders, as well as legislators who had cooperated in banning NGOs and civic groups.</p> <p>The department said in a statement that legislators and Interior Ministry officials helped “the regime to tighten its authoritarian grip over Nicaraguan citizens and institutions by using repressive laws to strip more than 400 NGOs and a dozen universities of their legal status.”</p> <p>It added “the regime holds over 180 political prisoners, with many suffering from a lack of adequate food, proper medical care, and even sunlight. One political prisoner has died, and others remain in solitary confinement.”</p> <p>The State Department had previously imposed visa restrictions on 116 individuals linked to the Ortega regime, “including mayors, prosecutors, university administrators, as well as police, prison, and military officials.”</p> <p>In recent months, the Treasury Department has frozen the U.S. assets of the defense minister and other officials in the army, telecom and mining sectors. As with dozens of Nicaraguan officials already under sanctions, U.S. citizens were prohibited from having dealings with them.</p> <p>With all government institutions firmly within Ortega’s grasp and the opposition exiled, jailed or in hiding, the 75-year-old leader eroded what hope remained the country could soon return to a democratic path.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Congo military: Rwanda invasion by rebels
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/m23-rebels-eastern-congo-seize-town-uganda-border-85361430
GIST	<p>GOMA, Congo -- Congo’s military accused Rwanda of “no less than an invasion” after M23 rebels captured a key town on Monday. The military vowed that Congolese forces would defend their homeland, marking a dramatic escalation in tensions between the two Central African neighbors.</p> <p>The statement from Gen. Sylvain Ekenge, spokesman for the military governor of North Kivu province, came hours after the town of Bunagana fell into the hands of the M23.</p> <p>“The Rwandan defense forces have this time decided to violate ... our territorial integrity by occupying the border town of Bunagana,” the military said in a statement, adding that it constituted “no less than invasion of the Democratic Republic of Congo.”</p> <p>There was no immediate reaction from the government of Rwanda, but the government there has strongly denied accusations over the years that it supports the Congolese rebel group. Many of the M23 fighters are Congolese ethnic Tutsis and Rwanda’s president is of Rwandan Tutsi descent.</p>

In a statement Monday, a spokesman for the rebel group called on Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi to open direct negotiations with them and said they seized the town only to make it safe enough for civilians to return after they fled recent violence.

“In the event of a new threat against our positions or the civilian population, our movement's troops have received the order to follow and annihilate the threat no matter where it comes from,” M23 spokesman Willy Ngoma said in the statement.

Relations between Rwanda and Congo have been fraught for decades. Rwanda alleges that Congo gave refuge to the ethnic Hutus who carried out the 1994 Rwandan genocide that killed at least 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The two countries have long accused each other of supporting various rival armed groups.

Late last month, Rwanda’s military accused neighboring Congolese forces of injuring several civilians in cross-border shelling.

The M23 rose to prominence more than a decade ago when its fighters seized Goma, the largest city in Congo's east which sits along the border with Rwanda. After a peace deal, many of M23's fighters were integrated into the national military.

Then earlier this year the group appeared to make a comeback, launching an offensive against Congo's military after saying the government had failed to live up to its decade-long promises.

The key town that was seized Monday, Bunagana, is only 60 kilometers (37 miles) northeast of Goma, which also serves as a hub for international aid organizations and the U.N. peacekeeping mission known as MONUSCO.

Bunagana, near the border with Uganda, is also an important transit point for goods being imported into Congo from as far away as China.

In Uganda, police spokesman Fred Enanga said Monday that more than 100 Congolese soldiers, fleeing fierce fighting with rebels, crossed the border and “surrendered” to Ugandan officials. He said the Congolese soldiers will be moved to Rutshuru, another eastern Congo town near the Uganda border.

While the rebels claimed they took the town of Bunagana in order to stabilize it, local leaders on Monday urged Congo's military to reclaim it.

“We deplore the M23 rebel attack and call on the Congolese government to track down and neutralize these rebel groups so that state authority can return,” said Innocent Ndagije, a civic leader in Bunagana.

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HEADLINE	06/14 Worries SKorea economy: truckers strike
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/worries-korean-economy-grow-amid-truckers-strike-85377535
GIST	<p>SEOUL, South Korea -- South Korea’s prime minister warned Tuesday that the disruption of cargo transport could cause “irrecoverable” damages on the country’s economy, as a nationwide truckers' strike entered its eighth day.</p> <p>About 6,840 truckers were rallying Monday at 14 sites across South Korea, continuing to trigger a delay in the shipment and delivery of key items like steels, cement, petrochemicals and tires, the Transport Ministry said in a statement.</p> <p>The statement said some steel and cement-related factories halted their operations. It accused some striking truckers of obstructing cargo transports at some major southeastern ports.</p>

Return to Top	<p>During a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, South Korea's No. 2 official, said the “illicit activities” by the striking truckers will never receive public support, according to Cho Yong-man, the No. 2 vice culture minister who serves as a government spokesperson.</p> <p>Cho cited Han as saying that the disruption of cargo transport could pose “a big irrecoverable blow” to South Korea’s economy, which already faces other difficulties.</p> <p>The Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy said in a statement Monday that the first six days of the strike caused an estimated 1.6 trillion won (\$1.2 billion) in damages.</p> <p>Truckers are on a strike, calling for an extension of temporary measures guaranteeing minimum wages amid soaring fuel prices. They met government officials several times but each meeting ended without any breakthrough.</p> <p>In a statement Monday, the Cargo Truckers Solidarity issued said the Transport Ministry lacked the resolve and capacity to narrow differences over the truckers’ demand. The Transport Ministry said it’s seeking to continue talks to address the issue.</p> <p>South Korean officials and experts say the strike’s damage has so far been limited to the country’s domestic industry, though a prolonged strike may undermine the global supply chains already hit by Russia’s assault on Ukraine and China’s COVID-19 restrictions. There have been no reports of substantial disruptions of key South Korean export items such as semiconductors and automobiles yet, Industry Ministry officials said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 UN: Darfur tribal clashes death toll rises
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/death-toll-week-darfur-clashes-now-125-85378280
GIST	<p>CAIRO -- The death toll from tribal clashes over the past week in Sudan’s Darfur region has reached at least 125, the United Nations said Tuesday.</p> <p>The violence, the latest in the war-wracked region, erupted following a land dispute between Arab and African tribes in the town of Kulbus in West Darfur province, with local Arab militias then attacking multiple villages in the area.</p> <p>The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said the dead included over 100 from the African Gimir tribe and 25 Arabs. It said the clashes injured more than 130 others, mostly Africans.</p> <p>OCHA said at least 25 villages in the Kulbus area were attacked, looted, and burned and that at least 50,000 people were forced to flee their homes in West Darfur and neighboring North Darfur province, where the clashes spread.</p> <p>The fighting was the latest bout of tribal violence in Darfur. It came as Sudan remains mired in a wider crisis following an October military coup — a takeover that upended Sudan’s transition to democracy after a popular uprising forced the removal of longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir in April 2019.</p> <p>The Darfur conflict began in 2003 when ethnic Africans rebelled, accusing the Arab-dominated government in the capital of Khartoum of discrimination. Al-Bashir’s government was accused of retaliating by arming local nomadic Arab tribes and unleashing militias known as the janjaweed on civilians there — a charge it denied.</p> <p>Al-Bashir, who has been in prison in Khartoum since he was ousted from power in 2019, was indicted over a decade ago by the International Criminal Court for genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated in Darfur.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Wall St. heavy losses, slips into bear market
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-futures-point-bear-market-heres-means-85376410
GIST	<p>NEW YORK -- Wall Street opened the week with heavy losses that put the benchmark S&P 500 at a level considered to be a so-called bear market.</p> <p>Rising interest rates, high inflation, the war in Ukraine and a slowdown in China's economy have led investors to reconsider what they're willing to pay for a wide range of stocks, from high-flying tech companies to traditional automakers. Big swings have become commonplace and Monday was no exception.</p> <p>The last bear market happened just two years ago, but this would still be a first for those investors that got their start trading on their phones during the pandemic. Thanks in large part to extraordinary actions by the Federal Reserve, stocks have for years seemed to go largely in only one direction: up. The "buy the dip" rallying cry after every market slide has grown fainter after stinging losses and severe plunges in risky assets like cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin fell below \$23,000 on Monday. The price for Bitcoin neared \$68,000 late last year.</p> <p>Here are some common questions asked about bear markets</p> <hr/> <p>WHY IS IT CALLED A BEAR MARKET?</p> <p>A bear market is a term used by Wall Street when an index like the S&P 500, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, or even an individual stock, has fallen 20% or more from a recent high for a sustained period of time.</p> <p>Why use a bear to represent a market slump? Bears hibernate, so bears represent a market that's retreating, said Sam Stovall, chief investment strategist at CFRA. In contrast, Wall Street's nickname for a surging stock market is a bull market, because bulls charge, Stovall said.</p> <p>The S&P 500, Wall Street's main barometer of health, slid 3.9%. It's 21.8% below its record set early this year and now in a bear market.</p> <p>The Dow industrials sank 2.8% and the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite, which already was in a bear market, tumbled 4.7%.</p> <p>The most recent bear market for the S&P 500 ran from February 19, 2020 through March 23, 2020. The index fell 34% in that one-month period, the shortest bear market ever.</p> <hr/> <p>WHAT'S BOTHERING INVESTORS?</p> <p>Market enemy No. 1 is interest rates, which are rising quickly as a result of the high inflation battering the economy. Low rates act like steroids for stocks and other investments, and Wall Street is now going through withdrawal.</p> <p>The Federal Reserve has made an aggressive pivot away from propping up financial markets and the economy with record-low rates and is focused on fighting inflation. The central bank has already raised its key short-term interest rate from its record low near zero, which had encouraged investors to move their money into riskier assets like stocks or cryptocurrencies to get better returns.</p> <p>Last month, the Fed signaled additional rate increases of double the usual amount are likely in upcoming months. Consumer prices are at the highest level in four decades, and rose 8.6% in May compared with a year ago.</p>

The moves by design will slow the economy by making it more expensive to borrow. The risk is the Fed could cause a recession if it raises rates too high or too quickly.

Russia's war in Ukraine has also put upward pressure on inflation by pushing up commodities prices. And worries about China's economy, the world's second largest, have added to the gloom.

SO, WE JUST NEED TO AVOID A RECESSION?

Even if the Fed can pull off the delicate task of tamping down inflation without triggering a downturn, higher interest rates still put downward pressure on stocks.

If customers are paying more to borrow money, they can't buy as much stuff, so less revenue flows to a company's bottom line. Stocks tend to track profits over time. Higher rates also make investors less willing to pay elevated prices for stocks, which are riskier than bonds, when bonds are suddenly paying more in interest thanks to the Fed.

Critics said the overall stock market came into the year looking pricey versus history. Big technology stocks and other winners of the pandemic were seen as the most expensive, and those stocks have been the most punished as rates have risen. But the pain is spreading widely, with retailers signaling a shift in consumer behavior.

Stocks have declined almost 35% on average when a bear market coincides with a recession, compared with a nearly 24% drop when the economy avoids a recession, according to Ryan Detrick, chief market strategist at LPL Financial.

SO I SHOULD SELL EVERYTHING NOW, RIGHT?

If you need the money now or want to lock in the losses, yes. Otherwise, many advisers suggest riding through the ups and downs while remembering the swings are the price of admission for the stronger returns that stocks have provided over the long term.

While dumping stocks would stop the bleeding, it would also prevent any potential gains. Many of the best days for Wall Street have occurred either during a bear market or just after the end of one. That includes two separate days in the middle of the 2007-2009 bear market where the S&P 500 surged roughly 11%, as well as leaps of better than 9% during and shortly after the roughly monthlong 2020 bear market.

Advisers suggest putting money into stocks only if it won't be needed for several years. The S&P 500 has come back from every one of its prior bear markets to eventually rise to another all-time high.

The down decade for the stock market following the 2000 bursting of the dot-com bubble was a notoriously brutal stretch, but stocks have often been able to regain their highs within a few years.

HOW LONG DO BEAR MARKETS LAST AND HOW DEEP DO THEY GO?

On average, bear markets have taken 13 months to go from peak to trough and 27 months to get back to breakeven since World War II. The S&P 500 index has fallen an average of 33% during bear markets in that time. The biggest decline since 1945 occurred in the 2007-2009 bear market when the S&P 500 fell 57%.

	<p>History shows that the faster an index enters into a bear market, the shallower they tend to be. Historically, stocks have taken 251 days (8.3 months) to fall into a bear market. When the S&P 500 has fallen 20% at a faster clip, the index has averaged a loss of 28%.</p> <p>The longest bear market lasted 61 months and ended in March 1942. It cut the index by 60%.</p> <p>_____</p> <p>HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN A BEAR MARKET HAS ENDED?</p> <p>Generally, investors look for a 20% gain from a low point as well as sustained gains over at least a six-month period. It took less than three weeks for stocks to rise 20% from their low in March 2020.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Wildfires force Arizona, Calif. evacuations
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/western-wildfires-force-evacuations-arizona-california-85360686
GIST	<p>FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. -- The Western U.S. on Monday marked another day of hot, dry and windy weather as crews from California to New Mexico battled wildfires that had forced hundreds of people to leave their homes.</p> <p>Roughly 2,500 homes have been evacuated because of two wildfires burning on the outskirts of Flagstaff in northern Arizona, officials said at an afternoon briefing.</p> <p>“We all have felt the pain of watching our beautiful mountain burn. We acknowledged what an incredibly difficult time this is for those who have been evacuated and for those whose homes have been threatened,” Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Patrice Horstman said.</p> <p>The wildfire prompted the county to declare an emergency. It's been fueled by high winds that have grounded aircraft as an option for firefighting. Crews are planning on being able to use aircraft Tuesday as winds moderate, authorities said.</p> <p>Incident Cmdr. Aaron Graeser said the Flagstaff-area fire is one of the country’s top priorities for firefighting resources.</p> <p>“Every potential fire source was a problem today, and every potential unburned area was receptive to fire today,” Graeser said. “That puts us in an interesting situation of trying to, again, assign resources the best we can based on that.”</p> <p>Current conditions have also kept fire managers from being able to better map it by air but the fire is estimated to be 8 square miles (20 square kilometers).</p> <p>Crews were expecting wind gusts up to 50 mph (80 kph) as they battled the blaze that has burned through parts of the footprint left by another springtime fire that destroyed over two dozen homes as well as parts of other fire scars.</p> <p>So far, one home and a secondary structure have been lost in the fire first reported Sunday, Sheriff's Office Chief Deputy Bret Axlund said.</p> <p>The Arizona Snowbowl ski resort closed as a precaution because of the wildfire — the second to hit the area this year.</p> <p>“It's literally like déjà vu,” said Coconino County sheriff's spokesman Jon Paxton. “We are in the same exact spot doing the same exact thing as we were a month and a half ago. People are tired.”</p> <p>Two other smaller wildfires northeast of the blaze were also burning Monday.</p>

Wildfires broke out early this spring in multiple states in the Western U.S., where climate change and an enduring drought are fanning the frequency and intensity of forest and grassland fires.

The number of square miles burned so far this year is more than double the 10-year national average, and states like New Mexico already have set records with devastating blazes that destroyed hundreds of homes while causing environmental damage that is expected to affect water supplies.

Nationally, more than 6,200 wildland firefighters were battling nearly three dozen uncontained fires that had charred over 1 million acres (4,408 square kilometers), according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

Even in Alaska, forecasters have warned that many southwestern fires have grown exceptionally over the last week, which is unusual for that area. Southwest Alaska normally experiences shorter periods of high fire danger because intermittent rain can provide relief, but since mid-May the region has been hot and windy, helping to dry out vegetation.

Favorable weather Monday helped slow the progression of a tundra wildfire just over 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) away from an Alaska Native village. Moderate temperatures and a shift in the wind that had been driving the fire toward St. Mary's will allow firefighters to directly attack the flames and increase protections for the Yup'ik community.

The lightning-sparked fire is estimated at about 193 square miles (500 square kilometers). It's burning dry grass and shrubs in southwest Alaska's mostly treeless tundra.

In California, evacuations were ordered for about 300 remote homes near a wildfire that flared up over the weekend in forest land northeast of Los Angeles near the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Gabriel Mountains.

The blaze saw renewed growth Sunday afternoon and by midday Monday had scorched about 1.5 square miles (3.9 square km) of pine trees and dry brush, fire spokesperson Dana Dierkes said.

"The fuel is very dry, so it acts like a ladder, carrying flames from the bottom of the trees to the very top," Dierkes said. Crews were also contending with unpredictable winds that were expected to strengthen later in the day, she said.

Aside from mandatory evacuations for some, the remainder of the mountain town of Wrightwood, with about 4,500 residents, was under an evacuation warning. Several roads also were closed.

The fire was 18% contained.

Five people were rescued from a dangerous area after a wildfire broke out Monday near Dulzura in San Diego County near the Mexican border and spread to nearly 600 acres (242 hectares), authorities said.

Two of those rescued were taken to a hospital but there was no immediate word on how they were injured or their conditions, fire officials said.

Fire conditions were elevated because of warm and dry weekend weather across Southern California. Monday was expected to be cooler, but another heat wave was expected at midweek, the National Weather Service said.

In Northern California, a 50-mile (80-km) stretch of State Route 70 was closed indefinitely on Monday after mud, boulders and dead trees inundated lanes during flash floods along a wildfire burn scar.

Several drivers were rescued Sunday evening from debris flowing on the highway when hillsides burned bare by last year's enormous Dixie Fire came loose. No injuries were reported.

	<p>The causes of the latest California fires were under investigation.</p> <p>U.S. Forest Service law enforcement officers cited a 57-year-old camper for lighting toilet paper on fire and placing it under a rock Saturday near the origin of the Arizona wildfire. The fire was reported a day later. Court documents show the man told authorities he tried to put the fire out with his sleeping bag, but his attorney said in federal court Monday that doesn't mean his client was responsible for sparking the blaze.</p> <p>Flagstaff resident Janetta Kathleen rode her horse, Squish, up a hill to get a better look at the wildfire Sunday evening and watched it creep toward homes in the shadow of the mountain. Her home isn't directly in the fire's path, but her family, two bulldogs and horses are ready to go at a moment's notice.</p> <p>"I need to know what's going on because I have decisions to make for my family," she said. "If the winds shift, we'll be in trouble."</p> <p>Hikers, campers and others who were out enjoying the forest also had to leave Sunday. A shelter was set up at a middle school.</p> <p>Strong winds sent embers across U.S. Route 89, the main route to the turnoff for the Grand Canyon's east rim entrance, through the Navajo Nation and up into Utah. Many people commute between the reservation and Flagstaff for work. Parts of the highway remained closed Monday.</p> <p>"We're not working directly on suppressing the fire to get the whole thing out right now," said Coconino National Forest spokesman Brady Smith. "That's not our focus and it's not possible right now. Right now, it's going to be focused on protecting life and property."</p> <p>Smoke from the fire near Flagstaff caused hazy skies in Colorado on Monday, obscuring views of the Rocky Mountains from Denver and other cities along the state's Front Range.</p> <p>Meanwhile, firefighters worked to contain a small wildfire burning in juniper and pinion pine that briefly caused evacuation orders Sunday in the San Luis Valley's Rio Grande National Forest in southern Colorado.</p> <p>The National Weather Service issued red flag warnings for high fire danger in central and southern parts of Colorado as well as parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.</p> <p>Winds are expected to ease after Monday with some moisture moving in later this week in parts of the Southwest, the weather service said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Kentucky shatters fatal OD record: fentanyl
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/kentucky-shatters-fatal-overdose-record-fentanyl-blamed-85368883
GIST	<p>FRANKFORT, Ky. -- Fatal drug overdoses rose nearly 15% in Kentucky last year, surpassing 2,000 deaths as the increased use of fentanyl — a powerful synthetic opioid — resulted in a record death toll in the state, according to a report released Monday.</p> <p>The report showed that 2,250 Kentuckians died from drug overdoses in 2021 — an ongoing scourge plaguing rural counties and the state's largest cities alike. It was the first time the Bluegrass State surpassed 2,000 drug overdose deaths in a single year, said Van Ingram, executive director of the state Office of Drug Control Policy.</p> <p>The state's rising death count mirrored the nation's escalating overdose epidemic. Last year, for the first time, more than 100,000 Americans died of drug overdoses over a 12-month period, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, with about two-thirds of those deaths linked to fentanyl and other synthetic drugs.</p>

In Kentucky, fentanyl was identified in nearly 73% of overdose deaths last year, Monday's report said.

"We've never seen one drug this prevalent in the toxicology reports of overdose fatalities," Ingram said in a phone interview.

Overdose deaths are often attributed to more than one drug. Some people take multiple drugs and fentanyl is increasingly cut into other drugs, often without the buyers' knowledge, officials say.

"I talked to a drug task force director last week who said, 'We're finding fentanyl in everything,'" Ingram said.

U.S. Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who has steered large sums of federal money to his home state of Kentucky over the years to combat its drug-abuse woes, said in a recent column that fentanyl has "flooded" across the nation's southern border.

"Law enforcement leaders across the commonwealth tell me that, to curb overdose deaths, our number one priority should be to stop fentanyl from illegally entering our country through Mexico," McConnell said.

State officials also pointed to the availability of potent, inexpensive methamphetamine as another factor in Kentucky's latest rise in drug overdose deaths.

The highest number of drug overdose deaths in 2021 occurred among Kentuckians aged 35-44, the report said. There were 672 deaths in that age group last year, up 17.5% from the prior year.

The overdose fatality report was released by the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the Office of Drug Control Policy.

Kentucky has long been plagued by high rates of addiction to opioid painkillers.

In 2020, more than 1,960 Kentuckians died from drug overdoses, up nearly 50% from the pre-pandemic death count of 1,316 in 2019. Many people discontinued their drug treatment efforts out of fear of contracting COVID-19. That, along with the sense of isolation caused by the virus, contributed to the 2020 surge in overdose deaths, state officials said then.

Now, treatment and recovery programs are again ramping up across Kentucky.

"Every day we must work together to fund recovery programs and treatment options so that we can continue to address this scourge and get our people the help they need," Gov. Andy Beshear said Monday in a news release.

The governor said the overdose death toll was "devastating and extremely heartbreaking."

Ahead of Monday's report, Beshear announced another step toward achieving a statewide policy goal of offering no-cost services close to home to help Kentuckians overcome drug addiction.

The state is working to establish cities and counties as "Recovery Ready Communities" — aimed at providing high-quality recovery programs across Kentucky, Beshear's administration said.

"This drug epidemic in this country is going to be solved one community at a time," Ingram said later Monday in touting the program.

Kentucky's Office of Drug Control Policy is partnering with Volunteers of America to launch the Recovery Ready Community Certification Program. Cities and counties can apply for certification upon offering transportation, support groups and employment services at no cost for people seeking treatment

	<p>for drug or alcohol addiction. A measure enacted last year by Kentucky lawmakers created an advisory council assigned to create the recovery ready certification.</p> <p>Kentucky state Rep. Adam Bowling, the measure's lead sponsor, said Monday that the program will “empower cities and counties to provide a powerful lifeline to help Kentuckians build a life free from addiction.”</p> <p>“Make no mistake, substance abuse is a crippling, dangerous disease that can be prevented and treated successfully,” Bowling said in a statement. “However, those who face it must have community support and access to treatment and resources, regardless of where they live or how much money is in their bank account.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Study: racial disparities in traffic deaths
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/racial-disparities-traffic-fatalities-wider-previously-estimated-study/story?id=85358202
GIST	<p>Philadelphia resident Latanya Byrd's 27-year-old niece Samara Banks and three of Banks' sons were struck and killed by a speeding driver in 2013. They were crossing Roosevelt Boulevard, a 12-lane road that passes through some of the city's most diverse and lowest-income neighborhoods.</p> <p>"It was just so devastating," Byrd told ABC News. "We lost two generations in one swoop. I mean, just an instant snap of the finger."</p> <p>As the local population has swelled, Byrd said outdated transportation infrastructure -- grass paths instead of pavements, dangerously short pedestrian signal cycles, overcrowded bus stops, to name a few -- can partially explain why this road is one of America's deadliest.</p> <p>Byrd's story exemplifies a larger trend of racial disparities and inequity in traffic fatalities, as reported by the Governors Highway Safety Association and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration last year.</p> <p>And a new study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine last week reveals that these disparities may be even wider than initially estimated, especially for "vulnerable" modes of travel such as walking and cycling.</p> <p>Previous estimates were derived by calculating national traffic fatality counts by race and ethnicity across travel modes, sometimes adjusting for the population of each racial and ethnic group.</p> <p>"But that assumes that everyone of all races and ethnicities cycle, walk or drive the same number of miles, and that we find is not true," Matthew Raifman, a Boston University School of Public Health doctoral candidate who co-authored the new study, told ABC News.</p> <p>Using 2017 national traffic fatality and household travel data, Raifman and co-author Ernani Choma, a research fellow at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, analyzed the travel activity of different racial and ethnic groups by the additional variables of travel mode, distance traveled, time of day and urbanicity.</p> <p>They found that when examining only car drivers or passengers, the traffic fatality rate per mile traveled was 1.8 times higher for Black Americans than white Americans.</p> <p>That rate increases to 2.2 times and 4.5 times when considering only pedestrians and cyclists, respectively. The rates for Hispanic Americans follow similar, though less severe, patterns. Asian Americans had the lowest fatality rates across all modes of travel.</p> <p>During the nighttime, racial and ethnic disparities in traffic deaths were exacerbated.</p>

Byrd partially attributed these disparities to systemic underinvestment in protected walking and cycling infrastructure in working class neighborhoods, which are disproportionately communities of color -- while most road repairs occur elsewhere.

"It can be the same road that's getting fixed every year, and it's nowhere near as bad as the roads in the lower-income section of the city," she said.

The fact that Black and Hispanic Americans die at higher rates due to traffic accidents yet bike and walk fewer miles in aggregate is a problem in itself, Choma told ABC News.

"It might indicate that, for example, Black Americans or Hispanic Americans are less able to cycle, they don't have access to transportation in that way," he said. "Maybe it's less bike lanes. Maybe they don't even bike because they feel unsafe."

Raifman said their analysis could also indicate racial inequity in the medical service chain — emergency response times, quality of care, access to health insurance and pre-existing conditions.

"Traffic fatalities don't necessarily occur at the point of the collision," he said. "Some people die in a hospital or an emergency room or en route to an emergency room."

Choma added that without safe access to bike lanes and pedestrian crossings, Black and Hispanic Americans also lose out on the health benefits that come from physical activity, as well as the environmental benefits like reducing air pollution.

Byrd co-founded the advocacy group Families for Safe Streets Greater Philadelphia to confront the "epidemic" of traffic violence. She successfully lobbied for automated speed cameras, which were placed at eight intersections on Roosevelt Boulevard in June 2020.

The U.S. Department of Transportation created the Safe Streets and Roads for All program in May to allocate federal transportation funding to cities and local governments. President Joe Biden also recently signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, providing \$550 billion in spending on roads, bridges, transit and more.

With more complete data on specific streets, walking and cycling activity levels, as well as other social costs of traffic crashes, like injuries and property damage, Raifman and Choma said they hope future research will spur local policymakers to address the root of racial disparities in traffic deaths.

"We have these two big challenges. We have structural racism, and we have traffic fatalities, and they're related. They're interlinked," Raifman said. "Instead of just investing in reducing traffic fatalities, why not do it in a way that's also addressing the systemic, structural racism challenges in our society?"

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HEADLINE	06/14 China mayor apologizes for lockdown
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory/china-city-mayor-apologizes-covid-19-lockdown-response-85377141
GIST	<p>BEIJING -- The mayor of a northeastern Chinese city on the North Korean border that has been under lockdown for more than 50 days has apologized for failures in his administration's work amid widespread — but often disguised — dissatisfaction over the government's heavy-handed approach to handling the pandemic.</p> <p>Dandong Mayor Hao Jianjun gave no specifics, but said government work and basic services had been “unsatisfactory,” for which he offered his apologies, according to a statement issued by the city government late Monday.</p>

It is highly unusual for a ranking Communist Party official to publicly concede errors, particularly regarding the hardline “zero-COVID” policy that has been repeatedly endorsed by top officials under President and party leader Xi Jinping.

Despite reporting only a handful of cases, Dandong had seen one of the strictest lockdowns in China, with even deliveries of food and other necessities banned, according to unconfirmed reports.

In his reported comments at a meeting with residents, Hao acknowledged the sacrifices made by the city's 2.4 million citizens, along with the “complaining voices” among them over the government's work. Dandong would now be moving into a stage of pandemic control that would be “more proactive, more active and more effective,” Hao said.

Unable to root out the source of new cases, Dandong officials took increasingly extreme measures, some of them of questionable scientific merit. That included recommending residents close their windows to prevent the virus being blown in from North Korea, even though its ability to spread through the air is extremely limited.

Authorities have also cracked down on smuggling across the Yalu River with North Korea, offering cash incentives for information on those involved. China has long held that the virus is spreading through packaging and other surfaces, despite little evidence showing that is a significant factor.

Officials at one point also transported residents of an entire apartment block to quarantine in the city of Shenyang, about 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of Dandong. Upon their release, it was discovered the positive case sparking the move had been in a resident of a neighboring building, leading to an angry confrontation between the residents and authorities.

Residents have been permitted out to shop, but no word has yet been given on when normal work can resume, said Li Yueqing, the owner of a wood processing factory in Dandong reached by phone. Rules still demand that any building where a positive case is found will be sealed off, Li said.

“We understand the epidemic situation in the city is still unstable. We don’t know when exactly we will be allowed to resume production,” he said.

A restaurant worker said the 50 days of closure is majorly affecting incomes.

“Up to now, we still haven’t received any instruction from the government on restarting business and our incomes have been affected by doing nothing,” said the worker, who gave only her surname, Guo.

A staffer at a maritime training academy who gave just his surname, Zheng, said they remained shuttered as a precautionary measure.

“The government feels it is better for us to remain closed longer, given the large number of trainees we have had. We have no idea when we will reopen,” Zheng said.

Lengthy lockdowns have become the norm in China's COVID-19 response, with Shanghai's ongoing predicament gaining the most notoriety. Most of the 25 million residents of China's largest city and key financial hub were confined to their homes or immediate neighborhoods for two months or more and hundreds of thousands continue to remain under restrictions.

The severity of the Shanghai lockdown and the apparent lack of preparation by authorities prompted confrontations at checkpoints between residents and officials, and a series of nightly sessions of banging pots and screaming from balconies. Criticisms of the government's policy were posted online, often in formats designed to thwart censorship software.

The relaxation of measures prompted an exodus from the city and foreign business leaders say confidence in its future as an international business hub remains in question.

	<p>The response in the capital Beijing has been more nuanced, possibly for political reasons, although many students have been forced to attend class online and a major shopping and nightlife district has been shut down following the detection of 166 cases linked to a nightclub.</p> <p>Testing is required daily or every other day in most districts and failure to participate can result in a person's cell phone health condition app being flagged, barring them from public spaces.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Tuesday is Flag Day 2022
SOURCE	https://www.nj.com/news/2022/06/flag-day-2022-when-is-it-is-it-a-holiday-why-do-we-celebrate-it-is-it-the-same-date-every-year.html
GIST	<p>Flag Day 2022 is Tuesday, June 14, 2022.</p> <p>The annual holiday celebrates the symbolism and history behind the American flag each year on the anniversary of the American flag's official creation on June 14.</p> <p>What is "Flag Day?" Why do we celebrate it? Flag Day is a celebration of the American flag that occurs every year on June 14 to remember when the Continental Congress introduced our country's first flag as the official American flag on June 14, 1777.</p> <p>The Continental Congress introduced the American flag in the middle of the Revolutionary War at a time when each colony or special interest had its own flag.</p> <p>The Declaration of Independence made the introduction of a universal American flag necessary.</p> <p>Congress made a resolution on June 14, 1777, outlining the purpose for a united American flag for the 13 colonies: "The flag of the United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field ..."</p> <p>In 1885, a school teacher by the name of Bernard J. Cigrand encouraged his students to reflect on the symbolism behind the American flag.</p> <p>Eventually, he came up with a proposal to establish an annual observance for the nation's flag and penned an article called the "Fourteenth of June" in the <i>Chicago Argus</i> newspaper. To this day, he is regarded as the "Father of Flag Day."</p> <p>Since then, there have been 27 different versions of the American flag, and stars have been added as states joined the Union.</p> <p>The flag in its current state dates back to July 4, 1960 when Hawaii was officially recognized as the 50th state on the American flag.</p> <p>How is Flag Day celebrated today? On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson established a national Flag Day on June 14.</p> <p>President Harry Truman signed legislation in 1949 proclaiming Flag Day as a national holiday, although it was never considered an official federal holiday.</p> <p>Many Americans celebrate Flag Day by displaying the red, white, and blue flags with 50 stars and 13 stripes in front of homes and businesses.</p> <p>Some towns and cities hold parades and other events to celebrate the flag, and the American flag is flown at all government buildings.</p>

Is Flag Day an official holiday? Will government offices and businesses be open?

Flag Day is not an official federal holiday, but its observance is proclaimed every year by the president of the United States.

Two states also celebrate it as a state holiday. [Pennsylvania established June 14 as a state holiday](#) recognizing Flag Day, and [New York](#) recognizes the second Sunday every June as a state holiday in honor of Flag Day.

Businesses and government offices will remain open in [New Jersey](#) and across the country.

Schools and the [U.S. Postal Service will also remain open](#), and mail service will run as usual.

Why was Flag Day never a holiday?

Flag Day was not included in the 1968 Uniform Holiday Act, which legislation laid out the framework for the [11 official federal holidays](#) and three-day weekend holidays we currently celebrate.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Stocks tumble, selloff; inflation fears spread
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Business/global-stock-selloff-gains-steam-inflation-fears-spread/story?id=85356087
GIST	<p>Global stocks tumbled and the S&P 500 closed in bear market territory Monday as fears over inflation rattle investors around the world.</p> <p>The S&P 500 closed down 151 points, or 3.88%, meaning it's down 21.3% since its high on Jan. 3. The Dow was down 876 points (2.79%) and the Nasdaq dropped 530 points (4.68%).</p> <p>On Friday, investors were disappointed to learn that inflation is moving in the wrong direction. U.S. consumer prices surged 8.6% year-over-year in May, to a fresh 40-year high, led by higher prices for energy, food and housing. For the first time in history, a gallon of regular gas now costs \$5 on average nationwide, according to AAA, and experts predict gas prices could average \$6 a gallon by August.</p> <p>"Any talk that we are at peak inflation has to be tabled at least until prices stop rising," said David Nelson, chief strategist at Belpointe Asset Management.</p> <p>The worse-than-expected inflation report has investors raising their bets on more aggressive interest rate increases from the Federal Reserve, possibly as soon as the central bank's policy-setting meeting this week.</p> <p>According to the CME FedWatch Tool, there is now about a 25% chance that the Fed will raise short-term interest rates by three-quarters of a point at the end of Wednesday's policy meeting as the Fed ratchets up its fight against high inflation.</p> <p>The likelihood of a half point rate hike at the Fed's September meeting has now jumped to 50%, up from 25% before Friday's inflation report.</p> <p>"The debate continues over whether the Fed can slow inflation using its many monetary policy tools without pushing the economy into a recession," Art Hogan, chief market strategist at National Securities, told ABC News. "Raising rates by three-quarters or even one percentage point on Wednesday would send a strong message that this Fed is willing to do what needs to be done to get inflation moving in the right direction."</p> <p>Inflation fears have sparked a broad-based selloff on Wall Street that has spread beyond stocks to the bond market and cryptocurrencies. Bitcoin, the biggest cryptocurrency, traded below \$24,000, down nearly 14% in just 24 hours.</p>

	<p>Despite this year's rapid stock market selloff, strategists at Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs said the market does not fully reflect the risks facing the economy.</p> <p>"The Equity Risk Premium does not reflect the risks to growth, which are increasing due to margin pressure and weaker demand as the consumer decides to hunker down," Morgan Stanley strategists, led by Michael Wilson, wrote in a note on Monday.</p> <p>If the S&P 500 closes Monday's trading session with a decline of more than 1.3%, the index would be in a bear market, defined as a 20% drop from a recent high. The technology-heavy Nasdaq-100 slipped into a bear market in March.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Israel urges citizens leave Istanbul
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-urges-its-citizens-istanbul-leave-heightening-travel-warning-2022-06-13/
GIST	<p>JERUSALEM, June 13 (Reuters) - Israel raised its Istanbul travel advisory to the highest level on Monday because of what it said was a threat of Iranian attempts to kill or abduct Israelis vacationing in Turkey.</p> <p>Foreign Minister Yair Lapid said a "huge effort" by Israel's security forces had saved "Israeli lives in recent weeks", and thanked the Turkish government for its contribution.</p> <p>He did not give further details. An Israeli security official told Reuters Turkey had arrested several suspected "operatives" of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.</p> <p>Turkish officials and the Iranian embassy in Ankara did not immediately respond to requests for comment.</p> <p>"We are calling on Israelis not to fly to Istanbul - and if you don't have a vital reason, don't fly to Turkey. If you are already in Istanbul, return to Israel as soon as possible," Lapid said in a televised statement.</p> <p>"These terrorist threats are aimed at vacationing Israelis. They are selecting, in a random but deliberate manner, Israeli citizens with a view to kidnapping or murdering them," he said.</p> <p>"I want, from here, to relay a message to the Iranians as well. Whoever harms Israelis will not get away with it. Israel's long arm will get them, no matter where they are."</p> <p>Tehran has vowed to retaliate against Israel, which it blames for the May 22 killing of Hassan Sayad Khodai, an Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps colonel who was shot dead at the wheel of his car by two people on a motorcycle.</p> <p>Israel neither confirmed nor denied responsibility, its standard policy over accusations of assassinations. It accused Khodai of having plotted attacks against its citizens worldwide.</p> <p>Turkey is a popular tourist destination for Israelis. The two countries have been mending their ties after more than a decade of strained relations.</p> <p>The upgraded advisory does not apply to Israelis on flights with layovers in Istanbul "as long as they do not leave the airport", Israel's National Security Council said in a statement.</p>
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Cyber Awareness

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HEADLINE	06/13 CISA: update to latest Chrome browser
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SOURCE	https://www.scmagazine.com/news/vulnerability-management/cisa-advises-security-teams-to-run-latest-update-of-chrome-browser
GIST	<p>The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on Friday advised security teams to review the most recent Chrome Release Note from Google and apply the necessary updates.</p> <p>The latest version of Chrome — 102.0.5005.155 for Windows, Mac and Linux — addresses the vulnerabilities that an attacker could exploit to take control of an affected system.</p> <p>Google posted that the update contained seven security fixes, at least four of which were done with contributions by external security researchers. All of the four fixes were rated “high” in severity.</p> <p>Google has long been a supporter of bug bounties and this patch cycle once again demonstrates that the more eyes that can get on a project the better, said Taylor Gulley, senior cyber security consultant at nVisium. “The contents of this release again highlight the benefits of a bug bounty program as well as that of open source projects,” Gulley said.</p> <p>John Bambenek, principal threat hunter at Netenrich, said it’s “telling” that most of the vulnerabilities are being discovered by third parties. “This demonstrates that Google’s outreach to vulnerability researchers is bearing fruit and that Chrome users world-wide are safer as a result,” Bambenek said.</p> <p>As CISA releases another advisory, organizations continue to struggle with being able to quickly and effectively provide updates to their systems and applications,” said Christopher Prewitt, chief technology officer at MRK Technologies. “This advisory is critical to remediate as it can provide an attacker remote access to an affected system,” Prewitt said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Iran spear-phishers hijack email
SOURCE	https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/news/iran-spearphishers-hijack-email/
GIST	<p>Security researchers have uncovered a major new state-backed spear-phishing operation targeting multiple high-ranking Israeli and US officials.</p> <p>Check Point traced the campaign to the Iranian Phosphorus APT group.</p> <p>Dating back to at least December 2021, it has targeted former Israeli foreign minister and deputy Prime Minister Tzipi Livni; a former major general in the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF); and a former US ambassador to Israel.</p> <p>Other targets included a senior executive in Israel’s defense industry and the chair of one of the country’s leading security think tanks, according to the report.</p> <p>The methodology is fairly straightforward. The attacker compromises the inbox of a frequent contact of the target and then hijacks an existing conversation between the two. They then open a new spoofed email address impersonating the same contact, with a format resembling joe.doe.corp[@]gmail.com.</p> <p>The attacker then attempts to continue the conversation using this new email address, exchanging multiple messages. Check Point added that real documents are sometimes used as part of the exchange to add legitimacy and relevance to the scam.</p> <p>In one case, Livni was contacted by the ‘retired IDF major general’ via his real email address and repeatedly asked to click on a link in the message and use her password to open the linked file. When she met him at a later date, he confirmed never to have sent the email.</p> <p>“We have exposed Iranian phishing infrastructure that targets Israeli and US public sector executives, with the goal to steal their personal information, passport scans, and steal access to their mail accounts,” explained Check Point threat intelligence group manager Sergey Shykevich.</p>

	<p>“The most sophisticated part of the operation is the social engineering. The attackers use real hijacked email chains, impersonations of well-known contacts of the targets and specific lures for each target. The operation implements a highly targeted phishing chain that is specifically crafted for each target. In addition, the aggressive email engagement of the nation state attacker with the targets is rarely seen in the nation state cyber-attacks.”</p> <p>Back in 2019, Microsoft claimed to have made a “significant impact” in its efforts to disrupt the Phosphorous group – also known as APT35 and Charming Kitten – after a court order allowed it to take control of 99 phishing domains used by the group.</p> <p>The latest revelations prove how difficult it is to stop a determined state-funded adversary.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Uganda Securities Exchange leaking data
SOURCE	https://www.hackread.com/scoop-uganda-security-exchange-leaking-sensitive-records/
GIST	<p>Apart from personal and financial records, the data also included plain-text login credentials including usernames and passwords of customers and businesses using the Easy Portal of the Uganda Security Exchange.</p> <p>The Uganda Securities Exchange (USE) aka principal stock exchange in Uganda has been caught leaking highly sensitive financial and sensitive data of its customers and business entities across the globe.</p> <p>This was revealed to Hackread.com by Anurag Sen, a prominent IT security researcher who has been known for identifying exposed servers and alerting relevant authorities before it’s too late. Anurag is the same researcher who discovered Australian trading giant ACY Securities to be exposing 60GB worth of data earlier this month.</p> <p>What Happened</p> <p>It all started with Anurag scanning for misconfigured databases on Shodan and noted a server exposing more than 32GB worth of data to public access. According to Anurag, the server belonged to the Uganda Security Exchange’s Easy Portal. For your information, Easy Portal is an online self-service portal that lets users and trading entities view stock performance, view statements, and monitor their account balance.</p> <p>“There are other ports running on the server which opened the link to the bank of Baroda – which is Indian based company operating in Uganda. Also, it is registered under the Uganda security exchange.”</p> <p>What Data was Leaked</p> <p>Upon further digging into the humongous dataset Anurag concluded that the exposed records were of sensitive nature. The worse part of the data leak is the fact that the server was left exposed without any security authentication.</p> <p>This means anyone with a slight bit of knowledge about finding unsecured databases on Shodan and other such platforms would have complete access to USE’s data including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full Name • Usernames • Full Address • Date of Birth • Access tokens • Phone Number • Email Address • Plaintext passwords • ID number of Users • Bank details including ID, and account number • Details on Foreign citizens and companies including citizens based in Uganda

No Response from Uganda CERT or USE

Although exposing sensitive data of unsuspecting users and businesses to cybercriminals is itself a blunder, not responding to researchers and not caring about the mess up is simply irresponsible.

Anurag and Hackread.com contacted Uganda Securities Exchange, Uganda CERT (Computer emergency response team), and several other government institutions via Twitter, phone, and email however none of the authorities ever responded.

Amid this, the server remained exposed for days.

Server Secured

On June 12th, 2022, the 32GB worth of data was reduced to MBs. It could be that authorities wanted to keep the incident under wraps to avoid criticism from local media and entities affected by the breach. Nevertheless, at the time of publishing this article, the exposed server was secured and its IP addresses were no longer accessible to the public.

Impact on the company and clients

It is yet unclear whether a third party accessed the database [with malicious intent](#) such as ransomware gangs or threat actors. But in case it did, it would be devastating for the USE, its customers, and its clients including local and foreign businesses.

Furthermore, considering the extent and nature of exposed data, the incident could have far-reaching implications. Such as bad actors could download the data, sign in to Easy Portal, and carry out identity theft, phishing, or trading scams.

If you use Easy Portal, it is time to contact Uganda Securities Exchange and inquire about the incident.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Exchange Servers hacked: BlackCat
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/microsoft-exchange-servers-hacked-to-deploy-blackcat-ransomware/
GIST	<p>Microsoft says BlackCat ransomware affiliates are now attacking Microsoft Exchange servers using exploits targeting unpatched vulnerabilities.</p> <p>In at least one incident that Microsoft's security experts observed, the attackers slowly moved through the victim's network, stealing credentials and exfiltrating information to be used for double extortion.</p> <p>Two weeks after the initial compromise using an unpatched Exchange server as an entry vector, the threat actor deployed BlackCat ransomware payloads across the network via PsExec.</p> <p>"While the common entry vectors for these threat actors include remote desktop applications and compromised credentials, we also saw a threat actor leverage Exchange server vulnerabilities to gain target network access," the Microsoft 365 Defender Threat Intelligence Team said.</p> <p>Although it didn't mention the Exchange vulnerability used for initial access, Microsoft links to a security advisory from March 2021 with guidance on investigating and mitigating ProxyLogon attacks.</p> <p>Also, while Microsoft did not name the ransomware affiliate who deployed BlackCat ransomware in this case study, the company says several cybercrime groups are now affiliates of this Ransomware as a Service (RaaS) operation and are actively using it in attacks.</p> <p>Cybercriminals flock to BlackCat ransomware</p> <p>One of them, a financially motivated cybercrime group tracked as FIN12, is known for previously deploying Ryuk, Conti, and Hive ransomware in attacks mainly targeting healthcare organizations.</p>

However, as Mandiant revealed, FIN12 operators [are much faster](#) as they sometimes skip the data theft step and take less than two days to drop their file-encrypting payloads across a target's network.

"We've observed that this group added BlackCat to their list of distributed payloads beginning March 2022," Microsoft [added](#).

"Their switch to BlackCat from their last used payload (Hive) is suspected to be due to the public discourse around the latter's decryption methodologies."

BlackCat ransomware is also being deployed by an affiliate group tracked as DEV-0504 that typically exfiltrates stolen data using Stealbit, a malicious tool [the LockBit gang provides its affiliates](#) as part of its RaaS program.

DEV-0504 has also used other ransomware strains starting with December 2021, including BlackMatter, Conti, LockBit 2.0, Revil, and Ryuk.

To defend against BlackCat ransomware attacks, Microsoft advises organizations to review their identity posture, monitor external access to their networks, and update all vulnerable Exchange servers in their environment as soon as possible.

Used in hundreds of ransomware attacks

In April, the FBI warned in a flash alert that the BlackCat ransomware had been used to [encrypt the networks of at least 60 organizations](#) worldwide between November 2021 and March 2022.

"Many of the developers and money launderers for BlackCat/ALPHV are linked to Darkside/Blackmatter, indicating they have extensive networks and experience with ransomware operations," the FBI said at the time.

However, the real number of BlackCat victims is most likely a lot higher given that more than 480 samples have been submitted on the ID-Ransomware platform between November 2021 and June 2022.

In its April alert, the FBI also asked admins and security teams who detect BlackCat activity within their networks to share any related incident info with their local FBI Cyber Squad.

Helpful information that would help track down and identify the threat actors using this ransomware in their attacks includes "IP logs showing callbacks from foreign IP addresses, Bitcoin or Monero addresses and transaction IDs, communications with the threat actors, the decryptor file, and/or a benign sample of an encrypted file."

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HEADLINE	06/13 Internet Explorer (almost) final byte
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/microsoft/internet-explorer-almost-breathes-its-final-byte-on-wednesday/
GIST	<p>Microsoft will finally end support for Internet Explorer on multiple Windows versions on Wednesday, June 15, almost 27 years after its launch on August 24, 1995.</p> <p>After finally reaching its end of life, the Internet Explorer desktop application will be disabled. It will be replaced with the new Chromium-based Microsoft Edge, with users automatically redirected to Edge when launching IE11.</p> <p>This retirement affects Internet Explorer 11 desktop apps on specific versions of Windows 10 delivered via the Semi-Annual Channel (SAC) to systems running Windows 10 client SKUs (version 20H2 and later) and Windows 10 IoT (version 20H2 and later).</p>

Internet Explorer is also not available on Windows 11, where the new Chromium-based Microsoft Edge is the default web browser.

Windows releases where Internet Explorer will still be available after June 15, 2022, include Windows 7 ESU, Windows 8.1, and all versions of Windows 10 LTSC client, IoT, and Server.

"The Internet Explorer (IE) 11 desktop application will end support for Windows 10 semi-annual channel starting June 15, 2022," Microsoft [says](#) on the IE11 lifecycle page.

As Microsoft further explains, "for supported operating systems, Internet Explorer 11 will continue receiving security updates and technical support for the lifecycle of the Windows version on which it is installed."

Other Microsoft apps and services have also ended support for IE11 over the last few years (a complete list is available [here](#)).

Internet Explorer will live on with Edge IE mode

Internet Explorer's demise likely doesn't surprise anyone since Microsoft has been encouraging customers to switch from Internet Explorer for years.

In August 2020, it [announced plans to ditch support](#) for Internet Explorer 11 web browsers in Windows 10 and Microsoft 365, with an [official announcement](#) of the Internet Explorer 11 desktop application's retirement issued on May 19, 2021.

[Microsoft moved on to discontinue IE support in Teams](#) on November 30, 2020, and end support across Microsoft 365 apps and services [on August 17, 2021](#).

"Customers are encouraged to move to Microsoft Edge with IE mode. IE mode enables backward compatibility and will be supported through at least 2029," Redmond added.

To enable IE mode in Edge, you must go to `edge://settings/defaultbrowser`, toggle on 'Allow sites to be reloaded in Internet Explorer,' and restart the web browser.

In this [Getting Started guide](#), you can learn more about IE mode and how to transition to the new Microsoft Edge.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Kaiser Permanent exposes 70K patients
SOURCE	https://www.darkreading.com/attacks-breaches/kaiser-permanente-breach-exposes-70k-patients-data
GIST	<p>Kaiser Permanente recently revealed that an employee email compromise on April 5 left personal medical information on nearly 70,000 of its patients at risk of compromise.</p> <p>Although Kaiser said the attacker had access for only a couple of hours and there is no evidence that sensitive data was breached, patient information including first and last name, medical record number, dates of service, and lab test results were involved, the company said in a notice about the incident.</p> <p>The US Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights is investigating the compromise, which took place at the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington and potentially impacted a total of 69,589 patients, its website said.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Chinese hackers backdoor Web3 wallets
SOURCE	https://thehackernews.com/2022/06/chinese-hackers-distribute-backdoored.html?&web_view=true

GIST	<p>A technically sophisticated threat actor known as SeaFlower has been targeting Android and iOS users as part of an extensive campaign that mimics official cryptocurrency wallet websites intending to distribute backdoored apps that drain victims' funds.</p> <p>Said to be first discovered in March 2022, the cluster of activity "hint[s] to a strong relationship with a Chinese-speaking entity yet to be uncovered," based on the macOS usernames, source code comments in the backdoor code, and its abuse of Alibaba's Content Delivery Network (CDN).</p> <p>"As of today, the main current objective of SeaFlower is to modify Web3 wallets with backdoor code that ultimately exfiltrates the seed phrase," Confiant's Taha Karim said in a technical deep-dive of the campaign.</p> <p>Targeted apps include Android and iOS versions of Coinbase Wallet, MetaMask, TokenPocket, and imToken.</p> <p>SeaFlower's modus operandi involves setting up cloned websites that act as a conduit to download trojanized versions of the wallet apps that are virtually unchanged from their original counterparts except for the addition of new code designed to exfiltrate the seed phrase to a remote domain.</p> <p>The malicious activity is also engineered to target iOS users by means of provisioning profiles that enable the apps to be sideloaded onto the devices.</p> <p>As for how users stumble upon these websites offering fraudulent wallets, the attack leverages SEO poisoning techniques on Chinese search engines like Baidu and Sogou so that searches for terms such as "download MetaMask iOS" are rigged to surface the drive-by download pages on top of the search results page.</p> <p>If anything, the disclosure once again highlights how threat actors are increasingly setting their sights on popular Web3 platforms in an attempt to plunder sensitive data and deceptively transfer virtual funds.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 New PingPull malware espionage attacks
SOURCE	https://thehackernews.com/2022/06/chinese-gallium-hackers-using-new.html?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>A Chinese advanced persistent threat (APT) known as Gallium has been observed using a previously undocumented remote access trojan in its espionage attacks targeting companies operating in Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa</p> <p>Called PingPull, the "difficult-to-detect" backdoor is notable for its use of the Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) for command-and-control (C2) communications, according to new research published by Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 today.</p> <p>Gallium is notorious for its attacks primarily aimed at telecom companies dating as far back as 2012. Also tracked under the name Soft Cell by Cybereason, the state-sponsored actor has been connected to a broader set of attacks targeting five major telecom companies located in Southeast Asian countries since 2017.</p> <p>Over the past year, however, the group is said to have expanded its victimology footprint to include financial institutions and government entities located in Afghanistan, Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Malaysia, Mozambique, the Philippines, Russia, and Vietnam.</p> <p>PingPull, a Visual C++-based malware, provides a threat actor the ability to access a reverse shell and run arbitrary commands on a compromised host. This encompasses carrying out file operations, enumerating storage volumes, and timestomping files.</p>

	<p>"PingPull samples that use ICMP for C2 communications issue ICMP Echo Request (ping) packets to the C2 server," the researchers detailed. "The C2 server will reply to these Echo requests with an Echo Reply packet to issue commands to the system."</p> <p>Also identified are PingPull variants that rely on HTTPS and TCP to communicate with its C2 server instead of ICMP and over 170 IP addresses associated with the group since late 2020.</p> <p>It's not immediately clear how the targeted networks are breached, although the threat actor is known to exploit internet-exposed applications to gain an initial foothold and deploy a modified version of the China Chopper web shell to establish persistence.</p> <p>"Gallium remains an active threat to telecommunications, finance, and government organizations across Southeast Asia, Europe, and Africa," the researchers noted.</p> <p>"While the use of ICMP tunneling is not a new technique, PingPull uses ICMP to make it more difficult to detect its C2 communications, as few organizations implement inspection of ICMP traffic on their networks."</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Syslogk Linux rootkit crafts 'magic packets'
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/new-syslogk-linux-rootkit-uses-magic-packets-to-trigger-backdoor/?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>A new Linux rootkit malware named 'Syslogk' is being used in attacks to hide malicious processes, using specially crafted "magic packets" to awaken a backdoor laying dormant on the device.</p> <p>The malware is currently under heavy development, and its authors appear to base their project on Adore-Ng, an old open-source rootkit.</p> <p>Syslogk can force-load its modules into the Linux kernel (versions 3.x are supported), hide directories and network traffic, and eventually load a backdoor called 'Rekoobe.'</p> <p>Using magic packets to load backdoor</p> <p>Linux rootkits are malware installed as kernel modules in the operating system. Once installed, they intercept legitimate Linux commands to filter out information that they do not want to be displayed, such as the presence of files, folders, or processes.</p> <p>Similarly, when first loaded as a kernel module, Syslogk will remove its entry from the list of installed modules to evade manual inspection. The only sign of its presence is an exposed interface in the /proc file system.</p> <p>Additional functions in the rootkit allow it to hide directories containing the malicious files it drops on the host, hide processes, hide network traffic, inspect all TCP packets, and remotely start or stop payloads.</p> <p>One of the hidden payloads discovered by Avast is a Linux backdoor named Rekoobe. This backdoor will lay dormant on a compromised machine until the rootkit receives a "magic packet" from the threat actors.</p> <p>Similar to Wake on LAN magic packets, used to wake devices that are in sleep mode, Syslogk will listen for specially constructed TCP packets that include special "Reserved" field values, "Source Port" numbering, "Destination Port" and "Source Address" matches, and a hardcoded key.</p> <p>When the proper magic packet is detected, Syslogks will start or stop the backdoor as instructed by remote threat actors, drastically minimizing its chances of detection.</p> <p><i>"We observed that the Syslogk rootkit (and Rekoobe payload) perfectly align when used covertly in conjunction with a fake SMTP server."</i></p>

Consider how stealthy this could be; a backdoor that does not load until some magic packets are sent to the machine. When queried, it appears to be a legitimate service hidden in memory, hidden on disk, remotely 'magically' executed, hidden on the network. Even if it is found during a network port scan, it still seems to be a legitimate SMTP server." - [Avast](#).

Rekoobe is loaded onto the user-mode space where detections are not as complex or unlikely as they are for Syslogk on kernel mode, so being more careful with its loading is crucial for its success.

Rekoobe is based on TinySHell, another open-source and widely available software, and its purpose is to give the attacker a remote shell on the compromised machine.

This means that Rekoobe is used for executing commands, so the repercussions reach ultimate levels, including information disclosure, data exfiltration, file actions, account takeover, and more.

Should you be worried?

The Syslogk rootkit is another example of highly-evasive malware for Linux systems added on top of the recently spotted [Symbiote](#) and [BPFDoor](#), which both use the BPF system to monitor network traffic and dynamically manipulate it.

Linux systems aren't prevalent among regular users, but they support some of the most valuable corporate networks out there, so threat actors are putting in the time and effort to develop custom malware for the architecture.

In the case of Syslogk, the project is in an early development phase, so whether or not it will become a widespread threat is uncertain at this time. However, considering its stealthiness, it will likely continue pushing new and improved versions.

The most dangerous development would be for Syslogk to release a version that supports more recent Linux kernel versions, which would greatly widen the targeting scope at once.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Ukraine: Russian hackers new campaign
SOURCE	https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/russian-hackers-start-targeting-ukraine-with-follina-exploits/?&web_view=true
GIST	<p>Ukraine's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) is warning that the Russian hacking group Sandworm may be exploiting Follina, a remote code execution vulnerability in Microsoft Windows Support Diagnostic Tool (MSDT) currently tracked as CVE-2022-30190.</p> <p>The security issue can be triggered by either opening or selecting a specially crafted document and threat actors have been exploiting it in attacks since at least April 2022.</p> <p>It is worth noting that Ukraine's agency assesses with medium confidence that behind the malicious activity is the Sandworm hacker group.</p> <p>Targeting media orgs</p> <p>CERT-UA says that Russian hackers launched a new malicious email campaign leveraging Follina and targeted more than 500 recipients at various media organizations in Ukraine, including radio stations and newspapers.</p> <p>The emails have the subject "LIST of links to interactive maps", and carry a .DOCX attachment with the same name. When opening the file, JavaScript code executes to fetch a payload named "2.txt," which CERT-UA classified as "malicious CrescentImp."</p>

	<p>CERT-UA has provided a short set of indicators of compromise to help defenders detect CrescentImp infections. However, it is unclear what type of malware family CrescentImp belongs to or its functionality.</p> <p>The hashes from CERT-UA show no detection at the moment on the Virus Total scanning platform.</p> <p>Sandworm activity in Ukraine</p> <p>Sandworm has been targeting Ukraine constantly over the past few years, and the frequency of attacks increased after the Russian invasion into Ukraine.</p> <p>In April, it was discovered that Sandworm attempted to take down a large Ukrainian energy provider by targeting its electrical substations with a new variant of the Industroyer malware.</p> <p>In February, security researchers discovered that Sandworm was the group responsible for creating and operating the Cyclops Blink botnet, a highly persistent malware relying on firmware manipulation.</p> <p>At the end of April, the U.S. set a reward of \$10,000,000 for anyone who could help locate six individuals believed to be members of the notorious hacking group.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Arizona hospital leaks 700,000 patient SSNs
SOURCE	https://therecord.media/arizona-hospital-says-ssns-of-700000-people-leaked-during-april-ransomware-attack/?web_view=true
GIST	<p>A major hospital in Yuma, Arizona is sending breach notification letters to more than 700,000 patients after a ransomware attack in April lead to a data breach involving Social Security numbers.</p> <p>In letters to victims recently made public, Yuma Regional Medical Center (YRMC) said it discovered a ransomware attack on April 25 and immediately took systems offline before contacting cybersecurity experts and law enforcement.</p> <p>“The investigation determined that an unauthorized person gained access to our network between April 21, 2022, and April 25, 2022, and removed a subset of files from our systems,” the organization said.</p> <p>“The files contained certain patient information, including names, Social Security numbers, health insurance information and limited medical information relating to care as a YRMC patient.”</p> <p>The organization is offering free credit monitoring and identity theft protection services “to those who are eligible.”</p> <p>No ransomware group has publicly claimed credit for the attack yet.</p> <p>Ransomware attacks on healthcare organizations have continued throughout 2021 and 2022, including recent attacks on a California nonprofit in March by the Hive ransomware groups.</p> <p>FBI Director Christopher Wray said last week that an Iran-based group attacked the Boston Children’s Hospital with ransomware last June.</p> <p>Healthcare organizations also continue to face a barrage of cyberattacks involving the theft of patient and employee sensitive data.</p> <p>On Monday, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan of Washington announced that it began sending out breach notification letters to 70,000 state residents due to a cyberattack that took place April 5.</p> <p>The sensitive information of two million people was accessed during a March cyberattack on Shields Health Care Group, a Massachusetts-based healthcare organization that provides services to dozens of</p>

	hospitals and other medical facilities. The company said the hackers gained access to databases that contained full names, Social Security numbers and more.
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HEADLINE	06/13 Neo-Nazis doxing Coeur d'Alene police
SOURCE	https://www.vice.com/en/article/4axgzi/neo-nazis-are-trying-to-dox-the-cops-who-arrested-patriot-front-members
GIST	<p>Extremely online neo-Nazis are big mad at the cops for figuratively and literally unmasking 31 members of the white supremacist group Patriot Front this weekend in Idaho.</p> <p>For many in the neo-Nazi and extreme-right communities, few punishments carry as much weight as being identified and held accountable for their online activities and racist activism. So many took it as an attack when cops arrested 31 members of Patriot Front, a group of khaki-clad white supremacists known for their propaganda videos, from the back of a U-Haul truck in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. The men had come from over 11 separate states with a smoke bomb and shields to crash an LGBTQ Pride event. No firearms were found on the men or in the U-Haul.</p> <p>Members of the group, who typically obscure their identities with white face coverings, were arrested on charges of criminal conspiracy, a misdemeanor, and had their masks pulled off before being loaded into a police car. Later the members' names and mugshots were also released in public documents.</p> <p>Among those arrested and charged was Thomas Rousseau, the group's founder and leader.</p> <p>Since then, activists and journalists have been scouring leaked chats and videos to connect the men with their racist and anti-LGBTQ activities. Now, some are attempting to dox the local police officers in Coeur d'Alene and are urging others to help in the effort, as first reported by Nick Martin of the Informant.</p> <p>"An attack on one member of the white race is an attack on us all. I'm not going to tolerate it. I'm going to find out who those officers are," one outraged Patriot Front fan said in a video posted on Gab, "and I'm going to dox every single one of them."</p> <p>"Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. You'll be hearing from me soon. F**k you," he continued.</p> <p>The video was shared within a network of neo-Nazi activists who all praised the man and said they would aid in the effort.</p> <p>"Pigs pissed off the exact demographic you DON'T actually want mad at you," one of them wrote. "These people have names," another wrote.</p> <p>Hating the police is pretty common among the extreme-right who typically considers traditional authority a barrier to their goals. In a press conference Monday morning, Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said that he and his fellow officers were being "screamed and yelled at" by anonymous people calling. Some officers were even getting death threats from as far away as Norway, according to Lee.</p> <p>On Telegram, several neo-Nazi and white supremacist accounts shared addresses and phone numbers they've found online associated with Coeur d'Alene police officers. A few have posted about how they've called the numbers and found them disconnected. Police officer numbers and addresses are typically unlisted for this very reason.</p> <p>What is listed online, however, are the phone numbers and addresses of the police stations where the officers are based. Other accounts on Telegram have posted that they're giving the police and sheriff's offices bad reviews online and calling and leaving rude messages.</p> <p>"I just left the police chief a scathing voice mail in Idaho for arresting Patriot Front," one Nazi wrote.</p>

One well-known neo-Nazi terror group that has had former members arrested by the FBI for myriad crimes also posted in favor of attempting to release the names of the police officers.

“Our enemies have names, addresses, and loved ones too. We have no moral obligation to subject them to equal retribution for their crimes,” reads a statement they released. “They deserve to be tortured and humiliated in the most egregious fashion possible.”

The group, however, has a spotty record of being able to conduct proper research of who they’re targeting and once accidentally staged a propaganda photo at the wrong home.

While conducting other research on the Patriot Front arrests this weekend, extremely online members of the extreme-right also found that the Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris’ work biography says he once trained with Mossad in the early 2000s following 911. This, of course, makes Norris a “Mossad asset” and the arrests, a part of an elaborate Israeli-planned operation to target the Patriot Front, according to multiple online racists.

“How many other TRAITORS to the United States have been trained and paid by Israeli intelligence to deprive Americans of their rights here at home?” one white nationalist writer wrote. “This is the most pressing foreign policy issue of our times.”

Patriot Front was born in 2017 after splintering off from the neo-Nazi group Vanguard America in the wake of the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville. The group publicly attempts to eschew outright racism in favor of a focus on nationalism. A recent leak, however, shows the group is [rife with white supremacy](#) and its members have a fascination with neo-Nazism as well as shaming fellow members for their porn and junk-food habits.

Patriot Front [has long worked as a recruitment funnel](#) for harder and more openly violent neo-Nazi groups. The group regularly organizes flash counter-protests meant to create propaganda videos and puts up posters and stickers. The Anti-Defamation League found in 2021 that the group was responsible for a sizable portion of white supremacist propaganda posted publicly in the United States.

The embrace of Patriot Front hasn’t extended to all avenues of the far-right. Those who exist in a more conspiratorial corner of the far-right, unsurprisingly, have begun to weave elaborate stories in which the Patriot Front [is a "honey pot"](#), the members are mostly are federal agents (a conspiracy that’s been around for some time and [endorsed by the likes of Joe Rogan](#)) and that the arrests were a plot to discredit the other activists.

Accusations of the men who were arrested being cops themselves left many in the neo-Nazi and white supremacist sphere of the extreme-right rather agitated. “Brave young men take enormous risks, expense, self-sacrifice and what do conservatives do,” one wrote indignantly. “STAB THEM IN THE BACK.”

Coeur d’Alene Police Chief Lee White also seemed to be a little annoyed by the conspiracy when a “concerned citizen” asked him about it at the Monday press conference.

“Let me be very clear here: These were not law enforcement officers that we arrested,” he said. “These were members of the hate group Patriot Front. These were not antifa in disguise, nor were they FBI members in disguise.”

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HEADLINE	06/13 Homicide fuels criticism of digital trackers
SOURCE	https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/06/13/an-indianapolis-homicide-fuels-criticisms-digital-tracking-devices/
GIST	AirTags and other trackers can be easily misused by bad actors

An alleged homicide in Indianapolis is raising tough questions about digital trackers that are marketed for convenience but sometimes used for stalking.

Gaylyn Morris, who was arrested and accused of murder, allegedly told witnesses that she was tracking her boyfriend Andre Smith with an Apple AirTag because she suspected him of cheating on her, as my colleague Lindsey Bever [reports](#).

Apple markets its [AirTag](#) mini trackers as a way to locate easily lost items such as keys and wallets. **But privacy advocates have long warned that AirTags and similar products are frequently used to track unsuspecting people.**

Morris allegedly used the AirTag to locate Smith at a local pub where he was with another woman and a heated confrontation ensued. According to police, Morris is accused of running over Smith several times with a car, per [the Indianapolis Star](#). He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The case highlights how seemingly innocuous tracking technology can potentially be used for nefarious purposes — especially by romantic partners and exes — sometime with tragic results.

Apple has made [significant reforms](#) to reduce the danger of AirTag stalking — but critics say the changes are far from sufficient.

Here's a rundown:

- AirTags make a periodic chirping noise to alert people to their presence.
- The tags also pop up an alert when they're in proximity to an iPhone or other Apple product for an extended period of time.
- That alert previously only popped up after three days of proximity, but Apple announced earlier this year that it is significantly [shortening](#) that window. In a test run in March, Post tech columnist Geoffrey A. Fowler [received an alert](#) after just 45 minutes.
- Similar tracking products offered by Samsung and the company Tile can be discovered in proximity to a phone by scanning with apps offered by the companies.

But those safeguards leave plenty of loopholes that can work to a stalker's advantage. Geoffrey highlighted several of them.

- The AirTag sound can be tough to hear if you're in a noisy place.
- The AirTag alerts also don't automatically pop up if the person being tracked uses an Android or other non-Apple product.
- There's an Android app people can download to find AirTags in proximity to their phones. But, as with the apps that identify trackers offered by Samsung and Tile, this puts the onus on the victim who may have no reason to suspect he or she is being tracked.

Students at the Technical University of Darmstadt developed a single app that scanned for all the major trackers, Geoffrey notes, something the companies themselves haven't done that would at least make the process easier for people who fear being tracked.

Asked for comment on the Indianapolis case, Apple referred back to its [statement](#) from a series of anti-tracking updates in February. **Security and privacy advocates were quick to highlight the Indianapolis case as evidence that more security checks are needed.**

This is just the latest scandal for surreptitious tracking and listening technology. In most cases, this technology comes in the form of apps that are surreptitiously installed on the victim's phone or another device rather than physical objects — a category critics have dubbed "stalkerware."

Like AirTags, these apps often also have legitimate purposes, such as helping parents track their children's online activity. But in some cases, the legitimate activity is largely a veneer and the apps are used for nefarious purposes more often than legitimate ones.

	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last year, Ali Nasser Abulaban, a popular TikTok personality, allegedly murdered his wife and a male friend after spying on them through a listening app surreptitiously installed on his daughter's iPad. • In 2005, the Justice Department indicted the creator and four users of Loverspy, malicious software designed to spy on intimate partners. <p>Cybersecurity advocates led by the Electronic Frontier Foundation's Eva Galperin have been pushing for tech and anti-virus companies to do a better job of scanning for stalkerware and alerting users when it's on their devices.</p> <p>But it's a difficult process — not least because stalkerware can be difficult to distinguish from legitimate apps.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Bitcoin withdrawals temporarily suspended
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/jun/13/crypto-lender-celsius-network-halts-withdrawals-extreme-market-conditions
GIST	<p>The cryptocurrency market has endured another day of volatility as the Binance exchange temporarily suspended bitcoin withdrawals and the total value of the digital asset market dipped below \$1tn (£820bn), after a cryptocurrency lender stopped customers from taking back their funds.</p> <p>The cryptocurrency lending platform Celsius Network halted withdrawals because of “extreme market conditions”, prompting a selloff.</p> <p>Bitcoin dropped to a 17-month low of \$23,629 after the Celsius announcement, while ether, the world's second-largest cryptocurrency after bitcoin, dropped more than 15% to \$1,237, its lowest since January 2021. Meanwhile, Binance announced it had “temporarily paused” bitcoin withdrawals owing to a “stuck on-chain transaction”, before announcing a resumption several hours later.</p> <p>The total value of the cryptocurrency market fell below \$1tn after the sell-off, according to the data site CoinMarketCap, which had valued the market at almost \$3tn in November.</p> <p>Celsius said in a blogpost it was “pausing” all withdrawals and transfers between accounts for its 1.7 million customers. The company offers customers high interest rates – as much as 18% – on their cryptocurrency deposits and pays the interest in crypto assets, which includes its own token, called CEL.</p> <p>“Due to extreme market conditions, today we are announcing that Celsius is pausing all withdrawals, swap, and transfers between accounts,” the platform said. “We are taking this action today to put Celsius in a better position to honour, over time, its withdrawal obligations.”</p> <p>Binance said in a statement that bitcoin withdrawals had been suspended shortly after midday in the UK “due to an earlier batch of transactions getting stuck from low transaction fees submitted”. As a consequence there had been a backlog of bitcoin network withdrawals, Binance said. It then announced at 4.30pm BST that withdrawals had resumed.</p> <p>On 7 June, Celsius had published a blog seeking to reassure customers amid volatile conditions in the cryptocurrency markets, triggered initially by a collapse in the crypto project Terra. Headlined “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead”, the blog said the company had not had “any issues meeting withdrawal requests”. Celsius has offices in London, New York and Lithuania.</p> <p>Celsius's website tells customers they can “borrow like a billionaire”. It has \$11.8bn in assets, down from more than \$24bn in December last year. In November, it said it had raised \$750m from investors including Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec, one of Canada's largest pension funds.</p>

Like a bank, Celsius also has a retail loan operation, with customers able to borrow money, denominated in US dollars, from the service. Because of the impossibility of sending debt collectors after a crypto wallet, however, Celsius loans are “overcollateralised”: customers need to deposit bitcoin or ethereum worth at least twice the value of the money they are borrowing. That can be useful if, for instance, a bitcoin millionaire needs some hard cash to buy a house but does not want to liquidate their bitcoin holdings because they are gambling the coin will go up again.

However, unlike a bank, Celsius’s loans charge a lower interest rate than it pays on deposits. The company makes up the difference through an opaque investment strategy that has in the past included investing \$300m in bitcoin mining, offering more traditional loans to unnamed “institutional investors” at higher rates of interest, and taking large stakes in other cryptocurrency projects.

Occasionally, that strategy has resulted in large losses: a hack of the decentralised investment platform BadgerDAO that wiped out that project was revealed to have cost Celsius \$50m in bitcoin.

The company also had a close relationship with the defunct stablecoin project Terra, at one point investing \$500m of funds in the Anchor Protocol, Terra’s own saving and lending service. Celsius also offers customers higher returns if they accept their interest payments in the project’s own crypto token, CEL, which was trading at \$7 last year and has fallen to less than \$0.20.

Cryptocurrencies have also been swept up in a market panic over rising inflation and higher interest rates, which has dulled the appetite for higher-risk assets.

“As inflation proves to be an even trickier opponent to beat than expected, bitcoin and ether are continuing to get a severe bruising in the ring,” said Susannah Streeter, a senior investment and markets analyst at the investment platform Hargreaves Lansdown.

“They are prime victims of the flight away from risky assets as investors fret about spiralling consumer prices around the world.”

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HEADLINE	06/14 Digital fortunes crypto billionaires vanish
SOURCE	https://www.thestreet.com/investing/cryptocurrency/fortunes-of-crypto-billionaires-are-melting-with-bitcoin-crash
GIST	<p>They were the radiant face of the rise of cryptocurrencies in 2021.</p> <p>Some saw them as the symbol of the advent of alternative finance capable of competing with traditional finance. They were basically the new bosses of the "New Wall Street".</p> <p>The crypto craze had indeed made many millionaires and billionaires but they were in their own league: Changpeng Zhao, founder of Binance, the largest crypto exchange by volume, Sam Bankman-Fried, founder of crypto trading platform FTX.com, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss, cofounders of Gemini, Brian Armstrong and Fred Ehrsam, cofounders of Coinbase (COIN) - Get Coinbase Global Inc Report and finally Mike Novogratz, the former Goldman Sachs banker turned crypto evangelist.</p> <p>Eight months after the Crypto euphoria that had made them even richer, they are watching helplessly as the billions of dollars they had made disappear.</p> <p>Changpeng Zhao had a fortune of \$95.8 billion on paper on November 9, 2021, the day before Bitcoin's all-time high. As of June 13, it was only estimated at \$10.2 billion, according to Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Basically, he lost \$85.6 billion in eight months.</p> <p>Armstrong's fortune was estimated at \$13.7 billion in November, it has decreased by \$11.6 billion and is now only at \$2.1 billion.</p>

Samuel Bankman-Fried saw his fortune decrease from \$15.1 billion to \$8.9 billion currently. That fortune is down \$6.2 billion.

Novogratz, who leads Galaxy Digital, saw his net wealth shrink from \$6.4 billion to \$2.1 billion, while Ehrsam's fell from \$4.5 billion to \$2.1 billion, down \$2.4 billion.

The Winklevoss brothers are the ones who are doing the best. Their fortunes have shrunk just \$800 million each to \$3 billion each.

The twin brothers accused Mark Zuckerberg of having stolen their idea of a social network to create Facebook. They used part of their millions of dollars settlement to buy bitcoin and launch Gemini, one of the most popular cryptocurrency exchanges that allow users to buy and sell crypto.

The Winklevoss brothers have not yet posted a message on Twitter to comment on the Bitcoin crash. They are on tour with Mars-Junction, their rock band.

"Cool as a cucumber," Tyler tweeted on June 13 about their performance. That same day, Bitcoin fell by more than 15%.

As for Cameron, he wrote: "Haven't been on here in a minute, what'd I miss?"

Cryptocurrency prices have been plummeting for several weeks. But this tumble accelerated on Monday: Bitcoin, the king of cryptocurrencies thus is trading to its lowest levels for 18 months around \$22,000, compared to \$ 69,000 last November.

The cryptocurrency market has lost over \$2.1 trillion since its November highs, according to data firm [CoinGecko](#).

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Terror Conditions

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HEADLINE	06/14 Joint German-Swiss raid nets 4 arrests
SOURCE	https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/alleged-islamist-extremists-held-in-joint-swiss-german-raid/47671804
GIST	<p>The Swiss Office of the Attorney General (OAG) said three suspects had been detained and several buildings searched in central and eastern Switzerland.</p> <p>Two of them – both Swiss nationals – have previously been convicted of offences related to supporting the terror group.</p> <p>The third suspect is a 17-year-old from Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Zurich justice authorities told the Swiss News Agency Keystone-SDA.</p> <p>One suspect was detained in neighbouring Germany, according to a statement by Swiss prosecutorsExternal link on Tuesday.</p> <p>Series of raids</p> <p>An investigation against the suspects was opened by the Swiss authorities last December. The men are likely to be remanded in pre-trial detention to determine if they participated in or supported the terror group.</p> <p>The OAG declined to give more detailed information.</p>

	It was the latest in a series of raids against suspected Islamic extremists in Switzerland over the past few years.
	The Islamic State as well as al-Qaeda groups have been banned in Switzerland since 2015.
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HEADLINE	06/13 Insurgent leader pleads guilty war crimes
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/us/politics/quantanamo-guilty-plea-abd-al-hadi-al-iraqi.html
GIST	<p>GUANTÁNAMO BAY, Cuba — An Iraqi prisoner who commanded insurgents during the U.S. war in Afghanistan pleaded guilty on Monday to war crimes charges related to lethal attacks on allied soldiers in 2003 and 2004, in a deal that could hand him off to the custody of another country by 2024.</p> <p>Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, now in his 60s, spent much of the daylong hearing responding, “Yes, your honor,” to the questions of the military judge, Lt. Col. Mark F. Rosenow, about a secret account of his activities in Afghanistan as a co-conspirator with Osama bin Laden and other top Qaeda leaders between 1996 and 2003. The account included more than 100 items.</p> <p>He could be sentenced to 10 years in prison, much of it to be served in the custody of another country, under a plea agreement that has yet to be made public.</p> <p>He pleaded guilty to the traditional war crimes of attacking protected property — a U.S. military medevac helicopter that insurgents who answered to him failed to shoot down in Afghanistan in 2003 — and of treachery and conspiracy connected to insurgent bombings that killed at least three allied troops, one each from Canada, Britain and Germany.</p> <p>Those allied soldiers were killed by car bombs or suicide bombers posing as civilians, the judge said. If Mr. Hadi had known in advance about the plans, he had a duty to stop them. If he had possessed no prior knowledge, the judge said, Mr. Hadi had a duty to punish the perpetrators.</p> <p>But the plea deal still represented a drastic scaling back of the government’s charges against him. None of the crimes to which he pleaded guilty made him directly or indirectly responsible for some of the most serious allegations made by military prosecutors when they charged him in 2014.</p> <p>Gone from his case were allegations that he was part of the sweeping Qaeda conspiracy to rid the Arabian Peninsula of non-Muslims. Nor was there any claim of responsibility or knowledge of the Sept. 11 attacks, which prompted the creation of the Guantánamo prison and the war court.</p> <p>None of the charges held him responsible for the destruction by the Taliban of monumental Buddha statues in Afghanistan’s Bamiyan Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage site, in March 2001. Nor did the charges tie him to the 2003 assassination by insurgents of a French worker for the United Nations relief agency.</p> <p>Mr. Hadi, who says his real name is Nashwan al-Tamir, was captured in Turkey in 2006 and brought to Guantánamo Bay the next year. Efforts to bring him to trial have been slowed by the coronavirus pandemic and by his health. He has a degenerative spinal disease that has left him paralyzed at times.</p> <p>Plea talks in the case started this year under a new Biden-era push to close the Guantánamo prison, which has an aging detainee population and limited capacity to provide health care without airlifting in specialists and equipment.</p> <p>Under Mr. Hadi’s plea agreement, which was reached in May and refined over the weekend, a military jury will hear the evidence against him and be asked to choose within a range of 25 to 30 years of confinement, starting with his plea.</p> <p>Once that is done, according to the deal, the senior Pentagon official responsible for overseeing the war court will reduce it to 10 years.</p>

	<p>The agreement postpones sentencing for two years, providing time his lawyers hope will be sufficient to find a sympathetic nation to receive him and provide him with lifelong medical care. His spinal disease has required five operations in less than a year at Guantánamo and has left him relying on a wheelchair and walker — and in need of more surgery to address his periodic paralysis.</p> <p>“He pleaded guilty for his role as a frontline commander in Afghanistan,” said his lawyer, Susan Hensler, who is compensated by the Pentagon. “He has been in custody for 16 years, including the six months he spent in a C.I.A. black site. We hope the United States makes good on its promise to transfer him as soon as possible for the medical care he desperately needs.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Hate speech could galvanize extremists
SOURCE	https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Experts-Anti-LGBTQ-rhetoric-could-galvanize-17239702.php https://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Right-wing-extremists-amp-up-anti-LGBTQ-rhetoric-17238923.php
GIST	<p>BOISE, Idaho (AP) — As hate speech targeting LGBTQ people increases among some far-right influencers and others online, experts are warning that extremist groups may see the rhetoric as a call to action.</p> <p>Such may have been the case when 31 members of the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front were arrested in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Saturday and charged with conspiracy to riot at a Pride event, said Sophie Bjork-James, an assistant professor in anthropology at Vanderbilt University who researches the white nationalist movement, racism and hate crimes in the U.S. The arrests came as a toxic brew of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric has been on the rise in Idaho and elsewhere.</p> <p>“There is a very clear relationship between normalizing this hateful content and having extremist groups try to mobilize around that in hateful actions,” she said. “We can see a direct relationship between the spectrum of anti-LGBT rhetoric from statehouses into these extremist groups.”</p> <p>Domestic extremist groups see conservatives as potential allies, Bjork-James said, and they’ve found anti-LGBTQ sentiment is one of the easiest ways to “build a broader coalition among the radical right.”</p> <p>“Unfortunately, I think it is a strategy that is working,” she said.</p> <p>Last month, a fundamentalist Idaho pastor told his small Boise congregation that gay, lesbian and transgender people should be executed by the government. Another fundamentalist pastor in Texas gives similar sermons.</p> <p>Rep. Heather Scott, an Idaho Republican lawmaker, recently told an audience that drag queens and other LGBTQ supporters are waging a “war of perversion against our children.” And last week, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said he would consider sending child protective services to investigate parents who take their kids to drag shows.</p> <p>The Department of Homeland Security warned last week that white nationalists and supremacists are using social media platforms like Instagram, Telegram and TikTok to present skewed framing of divisive issues like abortion, guns and LGBTQ rights, potentially driving extremists to attack public places across the U.S. in the coming months.</p> <p>Online court records do not yet show if the Patriot Front members have obtained attorneys. All were released from jail after posting \$300 bond, and court dates have yet to be set for the misdemeanor charges.</p> <p>Thomas Rousseau, a 23-year-old from Grapevine, Texas, has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as the Patriot Front founder and was among those arrested. He did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.</p>

Police say the men piled into a U-Haul truck wearing balaclavas and bearing riot gear, with plans to instigate a riot at the park where families, children and supporters were gathered to celebrate the LGBTQ community. Those arrested came from at least 11 states, including Illinois, Arkansas and Virginia.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White said Monday that since the arrests, his agency had received nearly 150 calls, evenly split between people thanking officers for averting a riot and people angry about the arrests. Many of the calls included death threats, Lee said, and some came from as far away as Norway.

Jennifer McCoy, a professor of political science at Georgia State University, said that when people with influence like political figures, sports or entertainment stars, religious leaders or media figures engage in rhetoric against specific groups, supporters can interpret it as a call for action.

"This can happen regardless of the intent or specific wording of the message, and is common in highly polarized contexts such as the U.S. is currently experiencing," McCoy wrote in an email Monday.

For Bree Latimer, a 22-year-old trans woman from Boise, the news of the arrests was alarming. Even in Boise, one of the most progressive cities in deep-red Idaho, harassment or hostility is a daily risk, Latimer said. Just last week Boise police were investigating after dozens of pride flags were stolen or damaged from a scenic neighborhood boulevard for the second year in a row.

"I always wonder as I walk past people in the grocery store aisles — do they know that I'm trans? If they do know, are they going to say something? Are they going to follow me into the parking lot? Am I going to get called a groomer or something? It's just constantly living in fear," Latimer said.

She gets frustrated when people call the anti-LGBTQ rhetoric a "culture war," saying it feels much more ominous.

"That diminishes what we're going through. We feel like there's almost an impending trans genocide," Latimer said. "They want us to stop having access to our hormone therapy, to be banned from talking to trans youth — they want you to be so unhappy with your life that you kill yourself. And now the hate speech is getting even scarier."

Still, she tries to focus on her computer science studies at Boise State University. On the weekends, she plays board games with friends, or occasionally heads out for an evening downtown.

"Being trans is a big part of my identity, but it's definitely not everything," Latimer said. "Still, the reality is, it's scary being a trans person in America right now."

Northern Idaho has long been associated with extremist groups, most prominently the Aryan Nations, which was often in the news in the 1990s. The area drew disaffected people after white supremacist Richard Butler moved there in 1973 from California.

After the Aryan Nations' heyday, many local officials tried to disassociate the region from extremism. But in recent years, some politicians, civic leaders and real estate agents have boasted about northern Idaho's conservatism to draw like-minded people.

At a news conference Monday, Coeur d'Alene Mayor Jim Hammond said the city is no longer a locus of hate.

"We are not going back to the days of the Aryan Nations. We are past that," he declared.

Scott, the northern Idaho lawmaker who said drag queens are waging a "war of perversion" on kids, did not respond to an email request for comment.

Elsewhere around the country, authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area are investigating a possible hate crime after a group of men allegedly shouted anti-LGBTQ slurs during Drag Queen Story Hour at the San Lorenzo Library over the weekend.

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A few weeks before 31 members of a white supremacist group were arrested for allegedly planning to riot at a northern Idaho LGBTQ pride event, a fundamentalist Idaho pastor told his Boise congregation that gay, lesbian and transgender people should be executed by the government.

Around the same time, a lawmaker from the northernmost region of the state, Republican Rep. Heather Scott, told an audience that drag queens and other LGBTQ supporters are waging “a war of perversion against our children.”

A toxic brew of hateful rhetoric has been percolating in Idaho and elsewhere around the U.S., well ahead of the arrests of the Patriot Front members at the pride event Saturday in Coeur d’Alene.

Police say dozens of men from the white supremacist group piled into a U-Haul truck wearing balaclavas and bearing riot gear, with plans to instigate a riot at the park where families, children and supporters were gathered to celebrate the LGBTQ community.

Those arrested came from at least 11 states, including Illinois, Arkansas and Virginia. The defendants were booked on misdemeanor charges of conspiracy to riot and released on bail. As of Monday afternoon, online court records did not show if the men had retained defense attorneys.

Thomas Rousseau, a 23-year-old from Grapevine, Texas, who has been identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as the Patriot Front founder and was among those arrested, did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment.

Jon Lewis, a George Washington University researcher who specializes in homegrown violent extremism, said outrage directed at LGBTQ people had been growing for months online, often in chat rooms frequented by members of groups like the Patriot Front.

In the same way that it mobilized against Black Lives Matter in the nation's capital in December, the Patriot Front harnesses what’s in the news cycle — in this case, drag queen story hours, disputes about transgender people in schools, and LGBTQ visibility more broadly.

A “massive right-wing media ecosystem” has been promoting the notion that “there are people who are trying to take your kids to drag shows, there are trans people trying to ‘groom’ your children,” Lewis said.

The rhetoric has been amplified by right-wing social media accounts that use photos and videos of LGBTQ individuals to drive outrage among their followers.

Several posts have falsely sought to label teachers and librarians who accept the LGBTQ community as abusers or groomers of children. Others have lambasted pride events or drag performances as “depraved.”

One photo shared widely on social media this week falsely claimed a “Drag Queen Story Hour” performer flashed their genitals to children while reading aloud. But the photograph, from a suburban Minneapolis library in 2019, clearly shows the performer was wearing tan undergarments.

A spokesman for Hennepin County Library confirmed to The Associated Press that the performer did not expose themselves to children.

Northern Idaho has long been associated with extremist groups, most prominently the Aryan Nations, which was often in the news in the 1990s. The area drew disaffected people after white supremacist Richard Butler moved there in 1973 from California.

	<p>After the Aryan Nations' heyday, many local officials tried to disassociate the region from extremism. But in recent years, some politicians, civic leaders and real estate agents have boasted about northern Idaho's conservatism to draw like-minded people.</p> <p>At a news conference Monday, Coeur d'Alene Mayor Jim Hammond said the city is no longer a locus of hate.</p> <p>"We are not going back to the days of the Aryan Nations. We are past that," he declared.</p> <p>Scott, the northern Idaho lawmaker, did not immediately respond to an email request for comment.</p> <p>At her public appearance weeks ago, she introduced two members of the Panhandle Patriots motorcycle club, who urged watchers to join them in "the fight" against LGBTQ people at the Coeur d'Alene pride celebration. They dubbed their counter-protest "Gun d'Alene."</p> <p>"Stand up, take it to the head, go to the fight. ... We say, 'Damn the repercussions,'" the motorcycle club members said. "They are trying to take your children."</p> <p>The Panhandle Patriots later changed their event to a prayer rally, saying they are "a Christian group that stands against violence in all its forms."</p> <p>Elsewhere around the country, authorities in the San Francisco Bay Area are investigating a possible hate crime after a group of men allegedly shouted anti-LGBTQ slurs during Drag Queen Story Hour at the San Lorenzo Library over the weekend.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 White supremacism, WA ties, Patriot Front
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/law-justice/white-supremacism-wa-ties-death-threats-what-to-know-about-patriot-front-arrests-near-idaho-pride-event/
GIST	<p>Anti-hate groups in Seattle and Spokane had been hearing for nearly two months that a Pride event in a northern Idaho city was likely to be targeted by far-right extremists.</p> <p>Police in Coeur d'Alene had heard similar buzz. So they assigned extra officers to be on duty Saturday in and around City Park, the site of the North Idaho Pride Alliance's signature annual event, according to police Chief Lee White.</p> <p>Then a tipster called police that day to report a small army of masked men with riot gear loading into a U-Haul truck outside a hotel. Officers pulled over the truck's driver a quarter-mile from the park and ultimately arrested 31 members of Patriot Front, a white supremacist group that started in Texas and is estimated to have a few hundred adherents in Washington state.</p> <p>Two of those arrested for misdemeanor conspiracy to riot are from King County, and three others are from elsewhere in Washington. The Seattle Times typically does not name people until they have been charged.</p> <p>Among those arrested was a 22-year-old Spokane man who has direct ties to On Fire Ministries, a Spokane church whose senior pastor is former state Rep. Matt Shea, found by a state House-commissioned investigation to have planned and participated in domestic terrorism.</p> <p>Kim Schmidt — the founder of Stronger Together Spokane, a grassroots group fighting religious extremism — said Monday it was "purely accidental" she made a connection between Shea and the 22-year-old, whose father works as Shea's head of security, as she was scrolling through jail booking photos released by the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office.</p> <p>The 22-year-old's brother, who now lives in Texas, was also arrested, Schmidt said.</p>

Shea was participating in an anti-LGBTQ+ march through downtown Coeur d'Alene on Saturday when news of the Patriot Front arrests first broke, according to Schmidt and Devin Burghart, director of the Seattle-based Institute for Research & Education on Human Rights.

Coeur d'Alene is a 40-minute drive east of Spokane, and far-right extremists represent “a very loud fringe” minority in the area, Schmidt said.

“This is toxic masculinity in its absolute worst form,” she said of the Patriot Front arrests.

Group formed after deadly rally

Patriot Front is a white nationalist group that formed in the aftermath of 2017's deadly “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The organization broke off from Vanguard America, a neo-Nazi group that participated in the chaotic demonstration where Heather Heyer, 32, who was protesting white nationalism, was killed, the SPLC says.

Patriot Front transitioned in 2020 from using explicit antisemitic and white supremacist language in its propaganda to more covert bigoted language, promoting a form of “patriotism” that emboldens white supremacy, xenophobia, antisemitism and fascism, according to ADL, previously known as the Anti-Defamation League. Patriot Front was responsible for [80% of all white supremacist propaganda incidents](#) nationally in 2020, ADL's Center on Extremism found.

Burghart, the director of the Seattle-based human rights institute, sees Patriot Front more as a rebranding than an offshoot of Vanguard America, as many of the same people have been involved in both groups.

Patriot Front is known for plastering stickers, defacing murals, committing other acts of vandalism and hanging banners off overpasses to recruit new members, particularly white men between 18 and 35.

“Membership is hard to gauge because they're pretty secretive about their membership rosters,” Burghart said. “It's an organization that's largely operated without a public-facing side and their actions are done surreptitiously, with masks, under cover of night.”

He estimates there are a few hundred members in the state, with a larger on-the-ground presence in Western Washington, from Bellingham to Vancouver.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which gave rise to virus deniers and those who refuse vaccines, exposed more people to an unending stream of far-right misinformation — and groups like Patriot Front are working to bring those people into the fold of their ideologies, Burghart said.

“It's a challenging time right now, given the massive number of people who were radicalized during this period and the sheer number of pipelines to far-right groups that have developed,” he said.

31 men arrested post bond

In Coeur d'Alene on Saturday, police found riot gear, one smoke grenade, shin guards and shields inside the U-Haul truck, along with paperwork outlining an operational plan to provoke a confrontation at the park before heading to the commercial strip along Sherman Avenue, White, the police chief, said during a Monday news conference.

The information police received from a 911 caller “would lead any reasonable officer to assume there might be criminal activity afoot,” White said, adding he has no doubt “a riot situation” would have occurred had police not stopped the U-Haul from reaching the downtown park.

“It was clear to all of us there was some ill intent there,” he said.

Police are still writing reports, analyzing footage from officers' body-worn cameras and executing search warrants on the U-Haul and other seized vehicles before referring cases to the city prosecutor for charging decisions, according to White.

Sgt. Jared Reneau, a police spokesperson, said the 31 men arrested have each posted a \$300 bond and did not make court appearances Monday. The men will be given court dates at a later time, Reneau said.

Police as of Monday morning had received roughly 150 voicemails, evenly split between local residents voicing support for the arrests and anonymous callers — at least one from as far away as Norway — who left messages “filled with colorful language,” many threatening the lives of Coeur d’Alene police officers, said Reneau.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Jihadi attacks mount in Burkina Faso
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/jihadi-attacks-mount-burkina-faso-juntas-efforts-85353317
GIST	<p>OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso -- The mutinous soldiers who ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president early this year vowed they would do a better job at stopping the jihadi violence rocking the country. Five months later, however, attacks are increasing and patience with the junta appears to be waning.</p> <p>Many in Burkina Faso supported the military takeover in January, frustrated with the previous government's inability to stem Islamic extremist violence that has killed thousands and displaced at least 2 million. Lt. Col. Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who led the coup and was later installed as interim president, vowed to restore security.</p> <p>But violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State increased nearly 7% during the junta's first three months of rule compared with the three months prior, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.</p> <p>“Beyond the immeasurable suffering, the effects of the violence and conflict — which show no signs of abating — are likely to lead to renewed popular discontent,” said Heni Nsaibia, senior researcher at ACLED.</p> <p>The latest attack happened in northern Burkina Faso over the weekend when suspected extremists killed at least 55 people, authorities said Monday.</p> <p>Nearly 5,000 people have died in the last two years in Burkina Faso and conflict experts say there will be far-reaching consequences if the violence continues to worsen.</p> <p>“The decline in Burkina Faso will absolutely fuel the spread of jihadist activity in the Gulf of Guinea states — Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo — where there already is jihadist recruitment and violence,” said Michael Shurkin, director of global programs at 14 North Strategies, a consultancy based in Dakar, Senegal.</p> <p>Damiba has asked citizens to give him until September to see improvement. He's promoted younger officers with field experience and created a central coordination unit for military operations. His government also has supported local dialogues with jihadis to try to convince the fighters to put down their arms and return to their homes.</p> <p>Yet violence is intensifying. Since April at least 30 security forces have been killed and two foreigners kidnapped: an American nun and a Polish citizen. Last week, 11 gendarmes were killed by jihadis in Seno province in the Sahel, said the army in a statement.</p> <p>The government is losing control of swaths of land, particularly in the Center North and Sahel regions, as jihadis have increased their use of roadside bombs and use more sophisticated weapons.</p> <p>Government soldiers say they lack equipment and must resort to stealing guns and ammunition from jihadis they kill. Seeing so many of their colleagues die also has taken its toll, the soldiers say.</p>

“Our situation is very difficult. Sometimes the enemy kills us because we’re regularly exhausted,” said a soldier, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn’t authorized to speak to journalists.

Jihadis are changing strategy. They are targeting water sources, destroying 32 facilities this year which has reduced access to nearly 300,000 people, said a group of aid organizations operating in the country.

“The conflict is now putting at risk the very thing no one can live without: clean water,” said Rebecca Bouchet-Petersen, country director for Solidarity International in Burkina Faso.

Most of the destruction of water sources has been around Djibo in the arid Sahel region, which hosts the largest number of displaced people in the country and has been under siege for months. Last month local leaders in Djibo tried to negotiate an end to the blockade with the top jihadi in the country, Jafar Dicko, according to government officials.

It was the first time the government gave logistical support for local dialogues, which have been ongoing for years. While the talks partially succeeded in allowing freer movement in and out of Djibo, community leaders say it’s a small improvement.

”I think it’s when the government negotiates that we’ll see more significant results,” said Boubacari Dicko, the Emir of Djibo who led the talks.

But it’s unclear if Damiba’s government is prepared to take that step. The previous government was publicly against such negotiations, although it did hold some in secret around the November 2020 presidential election.

There’s also growing discontent about Damiba’s crackdown on civic freedoms. The junta has restricted political demonstrations that could “disturb public order or mobilize security forces who will be more useful for combat.”

Yet locals in hard-hit parts of Burkina Faso see few alternatives to the junta and say they’re willing to give it a little more time. In August last year, 45-year-old Awa Komi tried to return to her village to farm because her family had no food, but fled when jihadis started killing people, she said.

In a makeshift displacement camp in the northern town of Ouahigouya where she now lives, she’s hoping Damiba will restore security so she can go home.

“He said things would change in five months,” the outspoken mother of 11 said, pumping her fist for emphasis. “If it’s not better in five months, we, the women, will kick him out.”

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HEADLINE	06/13 C-17 crew acted appropriately in incident
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/departing-planes-crew-acted-appropriately-harrowing-incident-desperate/story?id=85370278
GIST	<p>Multiple military reviews have found a cargo-plane crew acted appropriately and broke no rules in the course of a deadly incident during the chaotic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan last year, the Air Force announced Monday.</p> <p>On Aug. 16, an Air Force C-17 landed at Kabul’s Hamid Karzai International Airport bringing equipment to assist in the evacuation of civilians when it was swarmed by hundreds of Afghans who had breached the airport perimeter, military officials said.</p> <p>”Faced with a rapidly deteriorating security situation around the aircraft, the C-17 crew decided to depart the airfield as quickly as possible,” an Air Force statement said a day later.</p>

Harrowing video of the scene showed a large crowd surround the moving aircraft -- with some clinging on as it took off and some falling through the air.

Upon landing at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, human remains were found in the wheel well of the plane. The aircraft was temporarily impounded to give time for it to be inspected and for the remains to be recovered.

Among the dead, local authorities said, was teenage soccer player Zaki Anwari. The General Directorate of Physical Education and Sports said in a statement on Facebook at the time that he had fallen to his death.

"He was kind and patient, but like so many of our young people he saw the arrival of the Taliban as the end of his dreams and sports opportunities," an agency spokesman [told The New York Times](#) then.

On Monday, the Air Force announced that reviews by the staff judge advocate offices of U.S. Central Command and Air Mobility Command had agreed the crew "was in compliance with applicable rules of engagement specific to the event and the overall law of armed conflict."

The crew's operational leadership also reviewed the mission and found that it had "acted appropriately and exercised sound judgment" by getting the plane airborne as quickly as possible, given the situation, according to Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek.

"The aircrew's airmanship and quick thinking ensured the safety of the crew and their aircraft," she said. Stefanek also acknowledged the Afghans who died.

"This was a tragic event and our hearts go out to the families of the deceased," she said.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Burkina Faso: armed men kill 100 civilians
SOURCE	https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/least-100-killed-burkina-faso-attack-over-weekend-sources-2022-06-13/
GIST	<p>OUAGADOUGOU, June 13 (Reuters) - Armed men killed at least 100 civilians in a rural district of northern Burkina Faso close to the border with Niger over the weekend, a security source said.</p> <p>The attackers targeted men but appeared to spare women and children in Seytenga district on Saturday night, the security source and two other sources said, all speaking on condition of anonymity.</p> <p>No group immediately claimed responsibility, but the assault happened in borderlands where militants linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State are waging an insurgency.</p> <p>About 3,000 people who fled the attack have arrived in Dori, the capital of Burkina Faso's surrounding Sahel region, where aid agencies are on the ground, said a local official who asked not to be named.</p> <p>There were differing accounts of the death toll. The security official said on Monday at least 100 people had died. A local source who did not wish to be named said the provisional tally stood at 165.</p> <p>Burkina Faso's government spokesman, Lionel Bilgo, said 50 bodies had been found so far but that the figure was not final. Soldiers were going house to house looking for bodies, he said.</p> <p>Violence linked to Islamist insurgents has killed thousands and displaced millions across Burkina Faso and neighbouring Mali and Niger since 2015.</p> <p>Army officers angry about the escalating attacks overthrew Burkina Faso's president in January and vowed to improve security, but levels of violence have remained high.</p> <p>Armed men killed 11 military police in the same area last Thursday.</p>

	<p>The military government has cited security concerns for its decision to take 36 months to restore democratic rule, despite pressure from regional leaders to hold elections sooner.</p> <p>The United Nations condemned the attack that "claimed many victims" in a statement on Monday and called on authorities to bring perpetrators to justice.</p>
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Suspicious, Unusual

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HEADLINE	06/13 'Mainstreaming' extremism in statehouses
SOURCE	https://www.axios.com/local/seattle/2022/06/13/mainstream-extremism-washington-statehouses
GIST	<p>A growing number of state lawmakers have Facebook ties to extremist groups and are increasingly advancing far-right ideas in Washington's legislature and other statehouses across America, according to a recent report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The analysis, called "Breaching the Mainstream," was conducted by the Seattle-based nonprofit Institute for Research and Education on Human Rights (IREHR). <p>Why it matters: Such "mainstreaming" of far-right dogma is being blamed by some observers as a factor in overt acts of violence, such as the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol and the racially-motivated mass shooting in Buffalo, New York.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the wake of Buffalo's shooting, U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) called on Republican leaders to "reject" extremist viewpoints, tweeting: "The House GOP leadership has enabled white nationalism, white supremacy, and anti-semitism." <p>By the numbers: The report identified 875 state lawmakers across all states who were members of at least one of 789 private Facebook groups it characterized as promoting extremist viewpoints.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It lists 29 state lawmakers in Washington state — all Republicans — with ties to Facebook groups labeled as extremist. <p>Between the lines: The Facebook groups include those run by individuals or organizations that contend the 2020 presidential election was rigged; support white nationalism; harbor general anti-government sentiment; and deny elements of the coronavirus pandemic, among other views.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most Washington state lawmakers cited were linked to Facebook groups that denied or challenged the need for COVID-related restrictions or vaccination requirements. At least six Washington legislators were members of groups for paramilitary organizations or militias, including the Three Percenters, an anti-government ideology sometimes linked to racism. <p>What they're saying: "As state legislators flocked to Facebook's far-right groups, attacks on democracy and human rights popped up in state legislatures around the country," the report says.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It cites bills "suppressing the vote, limiting reproductive freedom, preventing efforts to slow the pandemic, lashing out against the LGBTQIA community, curtailing the right to protest, outlawing the discussion of racism," and more. <p>The other side: Washington State Republican Party spokesperson Ben Gonzalez called IREHR's report "an absolute joke."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "[S]imply belonging to Facebook groups focused on reopening Washington state and allowing people to return to work to provide for their families lands you the label 'far-right extremist,'" he said. <p>Yes, but: The number of identified "hate groups" operating in Washington has declined in recent years, dropping from 30 groups counted in 2019 to 19 last year, per the Southern Poverty Law Center.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Child suicides by poisoning on rise
SOURCE	https://crosscut.com/news/2022/06/child-suicides-poisoning-are-rise-data-shows
GIST	<p>Suspected suicide attempts by young people ages 6 to 19 reported to U.S. poison centers increased 27% between 2015 and 2020, according to a new study from the University of Virginia.</p> <p>The findings are based on cases reported to the National Poison Data System as suspected suicides, which includes attempted suicides and deaths. The total number of suspected child suicides by self-poisoning rose from 75,248 in 2015 to 93,532 in 2020, with girls accounting for 78% of cases.</p> <p>The biggest surge in suspected suicides was among children ages 10 to 12, more than doubling in the six-year period. But all age groups from 6 to 19 saw increases, according to the study.</p> <p>The most common substances used in the suspected suicides were acetaminophen and ibuprofen, over-the-counter pain medications found in most household medicine cabinets.</p> <p>“Our study is one of a number that demonstrates that we are experiencing an unprecedented mental health crisis in younger age groups,” said Dr. Christopher Holstege, medical director of the Blue Ridge Poison Center and chief of the division of medical toxicology at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, in a news release.</p> <p>Health experts recommend parents take their child’s threat of suicide or self-harm seriously, lock up all medications and avoid buying them in bulk. They advise going to an emergency room immediately after a self-poisoning rather than waiting to see whether the child has any symptoms.</p> <p>In addition to Virginia’s national study, two reviews in other states found increases in the number of voluntary reports to poison centers and emergency department visits for pediatric self-poisonings.</p> <p>In Washington state, a review of poison center cases published last month found that 40% of all child poisoning cases in 2021 resulted from self-harm or suspected suicide. From 2019 to 2021, self-harm and suspected suicide cases rose 58% among children ages 6 to 2 and 37% among children 13 to 17, according to the report from the Washington Poison Center.</p> <p>In Vermont, a report in May from the state mental health department found that emergency room visits for self-harm from 2020 to 2021 increased fourfold for middle school students and threefold for high school students. Of those visits, 41% were for self-poisoning.</p> <p>In addition to ibuprofen and acetaminophen, the top substances cited in the Washington and Vermont reports included antidepressants, antipsychotics, antihistamines and ADHD medications.</p> <p>In April, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention published the results of a 2021 survey of high school students showing that 44% reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for at least two weeks in a row.</p> <p>A 2021 report from the CDC revealed that emergency department visits for suspected suicide attempts among adolescents grew 31% in 2020, compared with 2019. The increase was highest among girls ages 12 to 17, with a 51% increase compared with 2019.</p> <p>Last year, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Children’s Hospital Association declared that the pandemic-related decline in child and adolescent mental health was a national emergency.</p> <p>On top of social isolation and family instability, the medical groups said, “More than 140,000 children in the United States lost a primary and/or secondary caregiver, with youth of color disproportionately impacted.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/14 Dead penguins wash ashore New Zealand
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/14/search-for-clues-as-bodies-of-hundreds-of-little-blue-penguins-wash-ashore-in-new-zealand
GIST	<p>The penguins lie in orderly, evenly spaced rows, wings splayed, their trademark glossy blue plumage dulled by sand. There are 183 in all, carefully collected by local people, laid out and photographed for later investigation. The birds were found at Ninety Mile Beach last week, just the latest in a phenomenon of dead penguins washing up on New Zealand's beaches in huge numbers.</p> <p>The kororā, also known as little blue penguins, are the world's smallest penguin, and are native to New Zealand. They have been a common sight on northern coastlines, seen hopping up the dunes at dusk with their characteristic, slightly stooped waddle, however the Department of Conservation (DoC) classes their population as "at-risk, declining".</p> <p>Their deaths have shocked and bewildered locals, who in recent months have found hundreds washed ashore and decaying on the beaches in the North Island. The 183 at Ninety Mile Beach came the same week that more than 100 were found dumped and decaying at the nearby Cable Bay. Local residents photographed another dead flock of 109 at Ninety Mile Beach the close of May, a resident found 40 at Tokerau Beach, also in the Northland region, in mid-May. The DoC has other reports of at least 20 dying on the same beach at the start of the month.</p> <p>In Northland social media groups, locals discuss the deaths with a growing sense of distress and alarm – are the birds being caught and dumped by fishermen? Is there something in the water? Have they caught some new kind of disease, like avian malaria?</p> <p>Graham Taylor, a DoC principal science adviser who studies sea birds, believes more than 500 penguins have washed up since the start of May 2022, and that the figure may be approaching 1,000. It is impossible to give an accurate number, mainly because some are found and buried by people, he says.</p> <p>Earlier in the year, he says, scientists from the Ministry of Primary Industries decided to test some of the dead birds in case a new virus or disease was sweeping through the colonies. They looked for infections and toxins. They concluded that the birds were starving to death.</p> <p>"All of the bodies were found to be super underweight. These birds should be around 800 to 1,000 grams, but they were way down around half that weight," Taylor says. "There was just no body fat on them, there was hardly any muscle to show. When they get to that stage of emaciation, they can't dive." Eventually, the birds simply die – of starvation or hypothermia from the lack of blubber to keep them warm.</p> <p>The DoC believes Kororā are not starving because of overfishing. Rather, climate change was creating waters too hot for the fish they feed on. Data released last year saw the hottest ocean temperatures in recorded history, the sixth consecutive year that this record has been broken. In New Zealand, that has combined with a La Nina weather conditions to create marine heatwaves. As waters warm, the small fish that kororā eat go deeper in search of cooler waters, or leave the area entirely.</p> <p>"This little species [of penguin] can dive down to 20 or 30 metres routinely, but it's not that good at diving a lot deeper than that," Taylor says. Hot water temperatures through winter had likely kept the fish out of reach.</p> <p>Mass deaths of sea birds are not unheard of historically: severe storms, heatwaves or weather events can result in birds washing ashore in the tens or hundreds. What has changed, Taylor says, is the frequency. Previously, deaths in these numbers would occur maybe once a decade. Over the past 10 years, he says there have been at least three mass-death years, and their frequency was increasing.</p> <p>Ian Armitage, a councillor for Birds New Zealand, which runs beach patrols to monitor dead sea-bird numbers, says the number of penguins found this year has been unusually high, particularly in the far north. Recent storms and high water temperatures mean he expects more mass deaths. "This event is</p>

	<p>probably not over and will continue through the winter,” Armitage says. “Many more little penguins found.”</p> <p>As human-driven climate change continues to heat the globe and its oceans, eventually, the species could be wiped out in warmer North Island regions. “As you start seeing it happen regularly like this, then there’s really not much chance for the birds to recover between the events, and rebuild the numbers again,” Taylor says.</p> <p>In the South’s colder waters, he says, populations are still doing well. “But the northern population are definitely in a very poor state. And when we get summer events like this happening at the frequency that’s been happening in the past 10 years, they really will be under pressure to be able to survive.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 As temperatures rise, ‘heat ages people’
SOURCE	https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/13/climate/extreme-heat-wave-health.html
GIST	<p>When W. Larry Kenney, a professor of physiology at Pennsylvania State University, began studying how extreme heat harms humans, his research focused on workers inside the disaster-stricken Three Mile Island nuclear plant, where temperatures were as high as 165 degrees Fahrenheit.</p> <p>In the decades that followed, Dr. Kenney has looked at how heat stress affects a range of people in intense environments: football players, soldiers in protective suits, distance runners in the Sahara.</p> <p>Of late, however, his research has focused on a more mundane subject: ordinary people. Doing everyday things. As climate change broils the planet.</p> <p>Heat advisories and excessive heat warnings were in effect on Monday across much of the eastern interior of the United States, following a weekend of record-smashing heat in the country’s Southwest. The heat will move farther Northeast in the next few days, according to the National Weather Service, into the upper Mississippi Valley, western Great Lakes and Ohio Valley.</p> <p>With severe heat waves now affecting swaths of the globe with frightening regularity, scientists are drilling down into the ways life in a hotter world will sicken and kill us. The aim is to get a better grip on how many more people will be afflicted by heat-related ailments, and how frequent and severe their suffering will be. And to understand how to better protect the most vulnerable.</p> <p>One thing is for sure, scientists say: The heat waves of the past two decades are not good predictors of the risks that will confront us in the decades to come. Already, the link between greenhouse-gas emissions and sweltering temperatures is so clear that some researchers say there may soon no longer be any point trying to determine whether today’s most extreme heat waves could have happened two centuries ago, before humans started warming the planet. None of them could have.</p> <p>And if global warming is not slowed, the hottest heat wave many people have ever experienced will simply be their new summertime norm, said Matthew Huber, a climate scientist at Purdue University. “It’s not going to be something you can escape.”</p> <p>What’s tougher for scientists to pin down, Dr. Huber said, is how these climatic shifts will affect human health and well-being on a large scale, particularly in the developing world, where huge numbers of people are already suffering but good data is scarce. Heat stress is the product of so many factors — humidity, sun, wind, hydration, clothing, physical fitness — and causes such a range of harms that projecting future effects with any precision is tricky.</p> <p>There also haven’t been enough studies, Dr. Huber said, on living full time in a warmer world, instead of just experiencing the occasional roasting summer. “We don’t know what the long-term consequences of getting up every day, working for three hours in nearly deadly heat, sweating like crazy and then going back home are,” he said.</p>

The growing urgency of these issues is drawing in researchers, like Dr. Kenney, who didn't always think of themselves as climate scientists. For a recent study, he and his colleagues placed young, healthy men and women in specially designed chambers, where they pedaled an exercise bike at low intensity. Then the researchers dialed up the heat and humidity.

They found that their subjects started overheating dangerously at much lower “wet-bulb” temperatures — a measure that accounts for both heat and mugginess — than what they had expected based on previous theoretical estimates by climate scientists.

Effectively, under steam-bath conditions, our bodies absorb heat from the environment faster than we can sweat to cool ourselves down. And “unfortunately for humans, we don't pump out a lot more sweat to keep up,” Dr. Kenney said.

Heat is climate change at its most devastatingly intimate, ravaging not just landscapes and ecosystems and infrastructure, but the depths of individual human bodies.

Heat's victims often [die alone](#), in their own homes. Apart from heatstroke, it can cause cardiovascular collapse and kidney failure. It damages our organs and cells, even our [DNA](#). Its harms are multiplied in the very old and very young, and in people with high blood pressure, asthma, [multiple sclerosis](#) and other conditions.

When the mercury is high, we aren't as effective at work. Our thinking and motor functions are impaired. Excessive heat is also associated with greater [crime](#), anxiety, depression and [suicide](#).

The toll on the body can be strikingly personal. George Havenith, director of the Environmental Ergonomics Research Center at Loughborough University in England, recalled an experiment years ago with a large group of subjects. They wore the same clothes and performed the same work for an hour, in 95 degree heat and 80 percent humidity. But by the end, their body temperatures ranged from 100 degrees to 102.6 degrees Fahrenheit.

“A lot of the work we're doing is trying to understand why one person ends up on one side of the spectrum and the other one on the other,” he said.

For years, Vidhya Venugopal, a professor of environmental health at Sri Ramachandra University in Chennai, India, has been studying what heat does to workers in India's steel plants, car factories and brick kilns. Many of them suffer from kidney stones caused by severe dehydration.

One encounter a decade ago has stayed with her. She met a steelworker who had been working 8-to-12-hour days near a furnace for 20 years. When she asked him how old he was, he said 38 to 40.

She was sure she'd misunderstood. His hair was half white. His face was shrunken. He didn't look younger than 55.

So she asked how old his child was and how old he was when he got married. The math checked out.

“For us, it was a turning point,” Dr. Venugopal said. “That's when we started thinking, heat ages people.”

Adelaide M. Lusambili, a researcher at the Aga Khan University in Kenya, is investigating heat's effects on pregnant women and newborns in Kilifi County, on Kenya's coast. In communities there, women fetch water for their families, which can mean walking long hours in the sun, even while pregnant. Studies have linked heat exposure to preterm births and underweight babies.

The most heartbreaking stories, Dr. Lusambili said, are of women who suffered after giving birth. Some walked great distances with their 1-day-olds on their backs, causing the babies to develop blisters on their bodies and mouths, and making breastfeeding difficult.

It has all been enough, she said, to make her wonder whether climate change is reversing the progress Africa has made on reducing newborn and childhood mortality.

Given how many people have no access to air-conditioners, which are themselves making the planet hotter by consuming [huge amounts of electricity](#), societies need to find more sustainable defenses, said Ollie Jay, a professor of heat and health at the University of Sydney.

Dr. Jay has studied the body's responses to sitting near an [electric fan](#), wearing wetted clothing and [sponging down](#) with water. For one project, he recreated a [Bangladeshi garment factory](#) in his lab to test low-cost ways of keeping workers safe, including green roofs, electric fans and scheduled water breaks.

Humans have some ability to acclimatize to hot environments. Our heart rate goes down; more blood is pumped with each stroke. More sweat glands are activated. But scientists primarily understand how our bodies adapt to heat in controlled laboratory settings, not in the real world, where many people can duck in and out of air-conditioned homes and cars, Dr. Jay said.

And even in the lab, inducing such changes requires exposing people to uncomfortable strain for hours a day over weeks, said Dr. Jay, who has done exactly that to his subjects.

"It's not particularly pleasant," he said. Hardly a practical solution for life in a stifling future — or, for people in some places, an increasingly oppressive present. More profound changes in the body's adaptability will only occur on the time scale of human evolution.

Dr. Venugopal gets frustrated when asked, about her research on Indian workers, "India is a hot country, so what's the big deal?"

Nobody asks what the big deal is about having a fever, but heatstroke puts the body in a similar state. "That is human physiology," Dr. Venugopal said. "You can't change that."

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HEADLINE	06/13 Sheriff: don't pick up folded dollar bills
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/nation-world/dont-pick-up-folded-dollar-bills-sheriff-warns-tennessee-giles-county-sheriffs-office-fentanyl-methamphetamine-white-powdery-substance-bathrooms-restrooms-playgrounds-businesses-cdc-inhalation-oral-exposure-ingestion-skin-contact-meth-drugs
GIST	<p>GILES COUNTY, Tenn. (WZTV) — Deputies in Tennessee have released a public safety warning about money being found with fentanyl tucked inside dollar bills.</p> <p>There have been two incidents where a folded dollar bill was found on the floor in gas stations, according to the Giles County Sheriff's Office. The person who found the bill discovered white powdery substances inside. After it was tested, the substance was positive for methamphetamine and fentanyl.</p> <p>The sheriff's department urged parents to educate children about not picking up folded money they may find in and around businesses, playgrounds, etc. without using great caution or alerting a parent or guardian.</p> <p>The sheriff's office posted a photo of a penny for scale and a small amount of white powder next to it to illustrate how little a quantity of fentanyl can kill anyone it comes in contact with.</p> <p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states fentanyl can be absorbed into the body via inhalation, oral exposure or ingestion, or skin contact.</p>

Crime, Criminals

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HEADLINE	06/13 Seattle record number of shootings
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/seattle-sees-record-number-of-shootings-in-2022-mayor-harrell-pushes-to-curb-gun-crimes
GIST	<p>SEATTLE — Right now, Seattle is seeing a serious uptick in gun shootings citywide. Data just released shows the number of shootings in May is the worst in recent years.</p> <p>For the first 5 months, there have been 75 percent more shots fired in Seattle compared to last year.</p> <p>The numbers are alarming. The city's crime dashboard compares this year and last year.</p> <p>Between January and May of 2022, Seattle has seen a total of 302 shootings.</p> <p>Fifteen people were killed by gunfire, 63 people have been hurt and there were 224 shots-fired calls.</p> <p>Over a five-month period, citywide shootings are up 75 percent in Seattle.</p> <p>This is despite the fact Washington state already has tough gun-safety laws that limit the sale of AR-15 type semi-automatic weapons to people 21 and over. And there's a required wait to get the weapon.</p> <p>Many people say we need tougher gun-safety laws. But is that truly the answer?</p> <p>Victoria Beach is chair of the Seattle Police Department African American Community Alliance.</p> <p>"We do need those laws," Beach said. "It will stop people that have a motive that go in the day before to buy a gun. But I don't think it's going to stop the drive-by shooting and there's always going to be a place to find and buy a gun."</p> <p>KOMO News asked Seattle Mayor Bruce Harrell how Seattle can stop the wave of gun crimes.</p> <p>"We can have an effective police department," he said. "We can have more effective, more culturally competent police officers. We need to fund them and we need them to work with community-based organizations."</p> <p>Critics say it has to go beyond the police department.</p> <p>The mayor agrees.</p> <p>"You can't just have a police response to what we see here," Harrell said. "We have to know the psychological profile of those committing these crimes. We have to see the triggers in who these people are."</p> <p>Mayor Harrell also says he wants to change Washington state's preemption of gun laws. That way, local governments would be able to put stricter gun laws into effect.</p> <p>The Mayor says Seattle would then be able to, for example, ban and confiscate firearms in city parks.</p> <p>"That's why I'm so adamant," Harrell said. "I need the laws changed on the federal level, the state level. I need freedom under the state law to be able to do some effective measures, in parks for example."</p>

	<p>Harrell says he recently met with mayors from some of the biggest cities in the country and noted they're all grappling with similar gun violence concerns. He says he will talk to other cities about what's working.</p> <p>The mayor also emphasizes that it is key to work with community organizations that could keep guns out of the wrong hands.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 North Seattle businesses seek police help
SOURCE	https://komonews.com/news/local/north-seattle-business-owners-ask-for-police-help-after-vandalism
GIST	<p>SEATTLE - Business owners in North Seattle are asking police for help with crimes like vandalism and graffiti.</p> <p>Crimes they say happen over and over again.</p> <p>For business owner Ocean Greens, his cannabis store on Aurora Avenue North is not a stranger to being affected by crime. Early this year, it was an armed robbery. This time it was vandalism, captured Sunday morning on a surveillance camera.</p> <p>"Circled in front of the store for a few times and then pulls out a rock out of her pocket and just hit the window the rock," Greens said about the person caught on camera leaving behind a broken window in the front of their store. Greens said it is also a serious hit to his wallet.</p> <p>"Probably couple thousand dollars," Greens said. "It's tempered glass. It's a huge business expense for a small business."</p> <p>Greens said other businesses have been affected.</p> <p>"All within the last couple of months, during daylight or during at night, it doesn't matter," he said.</p> <p>Ocean's next-door business neighbor Larry Bishop, owner of D&D Brakes also talked with us. Bishop told us his window was broken last year and showed us recent graffiti, which they tried to paint over, while faded, some of it was still visible.</p> <p>"Probably every other month, I get graffiti on my buildings," Bishop said. "You can call in vandalism and stuff like that and they don't never come out."</p> <p>"I wish we had more police, that would patrol more in this area," Bishop added.</p> <p>Greens said simple police presence could prevent some of this.</p> <p>"[Police] can use decoy cars, meaning that they don't have to have officers inside the car, but just the car parked with lights on or lights off," he suggested. "When we have police present in front of our stores, nothing happens. If there is no police presence then, something will happen."</p> <p>If they don't have enough capacity to protect our businesses and our communities and our neighborhoods, maybe it's time for them to give us badges, as community police officers where we can carry guns and be able to conduct citizen arrests."</p> <p>A Seattle Police spokesperson sent KOMO data, where they claim property crimes in the area are down.</p> <p>"It appears, halfway through the year, there has been a decrease in the number of property crimes reported thus far compared to the previous two years," the spokesperson said. "Going even further, back to pre-pandemic levels in 2018 and 2019, property crimes are down significantly in that area. We encourage anyone with concerns about crime to report to 911. Officers in patrol and detectives in the General Investigations Unit continue to investigate and solve property crimes."</p>

	<p>The property crime year totals given for the “Nora 3 police beat” location includes arson, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022 (data through 5/31)- 229 crimes • 2021- 605 crimes • 2020- 688 crimes • 2019- 700 crimes • 2018- 688 crimes
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HEADLINE	06/13 FBI: LEO statistics killed in line of duty
SOURCE	https://www.hstoday.us/subject-matter-areas/law-enforcement-and-public-safety/fbi-releases-2021-statistics-on-law-enforcement-officers-killed-in-the-line-of-duty/
GIST	<p>According to statistics reported to the FBI, 129 law enforcement officers were killed in line-of-duty incidents in 2021. Of these, 73 officers died as a result of felonious acts, and 56 officers died in accidents. Comprehensive data tables about these incidents and brief narratives describing the fatal attacks were released today in the Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted (LEOKA) portion on the FBI’s Law Enforcement Data Explorer (a subset of the Crime Data Explorer).</p> <p>Felonious Deaths</p> <p>Seventy-three officers were feloniously killed in 2021, an increase of 27 when compared to the 46 officers who were killed as a result of criminal acts in 2020. The 73 felonious deaths occurred in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.</p> <p>The 5- and 10-year comparisons show an increase of 27 felonious deaths when compared with the 2017 figure (46 officers) and an increase of 24 deaths when compared with 2012 data (49 officers).</p> <p><i>Officer Profiles.</i> The average age of the officers who were feloniously killed was 39 years old. The victim officers had served in law enforcement for an average of 12 years at the times of the fatal incidents. Of the 73 officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 68 were male. • 5 were female. • 60 were White. • 9 were Black/African American. • The race of 4 officers who died was not reported. <p><i>Circumstances Encountered by Victim Officer Upon Arrival at Scene of Incident.</i> Of the 73 officers feloniously killed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 officers were killed in unprovoked attacks. • 9 officers died as a result of investigative/enforcement activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 were involved in surveillance activities. ○ 2 were conducting traffic violation stops. ○ 1 was responding to an active shooter. ○ 1 was involved in an undercover situation. • 1 was investigating a wanted person. • 8 officers were ambushed (entrapment/premeditation). • 8 officers were involved in pursuits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 7 were vehicular (anything other than on foot). ○ 1 was on foot. • 7 officers responded to disorders/disturbances. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 were responding to a disturbance (disorderly subject, fight, etc.). ○ 2 were responding to domestic disturbances (family quarrel, no assault). ○ 2 were responding to domestic violence situations. • 6 officers were involved in tactical situations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4 were involved in barricaded/hostage situations. ○ 2 were serving/attempting to serve arrest warrants.

- 4 officers were involved in arrest situations.
 - 2 were involved with verbal advisements only.
 - 1 was maintaining custody of a prisoner (in vehicle, precinct, etc.).
 - 1 arrest situation type was not reported.
- 2 officers responded to crimes in progress.
 - 1 was an active shooter.
 - 1 was an assault.
- 1 officer was assisting other law enforcement officers.
- 1 was serving/attempting to serve a court order (eviction notice, subpoena, etc.).
- 1 officer was out of service (court, dining, etc.).
- 1 officer was responding to a report of crime.
- 1 officer was providing/deploying equipment (flares, traffic cones, etc.).

Weapons. Offenders used firearms to kill 61 of the 73 victim officers. Six officers were killed with vehicles used as weapons. Four officers were killed by the offender's use of personal weapons (hand, fists, feet, etc.). Of the 61 officers killed by firearms:

- 15 were slain with handguns.
- 11 with rifles.
- 2 with shotguns.
- 33 with firearms in which the types of firearms were unknown or not reported.

Regions. Felonious deaths were reported in three of the four U.S. regions.

- 44 officers were feloniously killed in the South.
- 13 in the West.
- 12 in the Midwest.
- None were feloniously killed in the Northeast.
- 4 officers were also killed in Puerto Rico.

Suspects. Law enforcement agencies identified 66 alleged assailants in connection with the felonious line-of-duty deaths.

- 20 of the assailants had prior criminal arrests.
- 9 of the offenders were under judicial supervision at the times of the felonious incidents.

Accidental Deaths

Fifty-six law enforcement officers were killed accidentally while performing their duties in 2021, an increase of 10 when compared with the 46 officers accidentally killed in 2020. The majority (32 officers) were killed in motor vehicle crashes.

Officer Profile. The average age of officers who were accidentally killed was 40 years old; the average number of years the victim officers had served in law enforcement was 10. Of the 56 officers accidentally killed:

- 52 were male.
- 4 were female.
- 46 were White.
- 7 were Black/African American.
- 1 was Asian.
- The race for 2 victim officers was not reported.

Circumstances. The 56 officers accidentally killed died in a variety of scenarios:

- 32 died as a result of motor vehicle crashes.
 - 30 while operating motor vehicles.
 - 2 while operating an ATV or a motorcycle.
- 20 were pedestrian officers struck by vehicles.
- 4 officers drowned.

	<p><i>Use of seatbelts.</i> Of the 30 officers killed in motor vehicle crashes (not including ATVs and motorcycles), 7 were wearing seatbelts, and 5 were not. Data about seatbelt usage was not reported for 18 of the officers.</p> <p><i>Regions.</i> Accidental deaths were reported in all four U.S. regions and in Puerto Rico.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 of the accidental deaths occurred in the South. • 13 in the West. • 9 in the Midwest. • 7 in the Northeast. • 1 in Puerto Rico. <p><i>Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2021 Release Schedule</i></p> <p>To provide a more timely release of data to the public, today's release provides three categories of data. These categories include data and statistics concerning officers feloniously and accidentally killed and statistics about federal officers killed and/or assaulted. The remaining portions of the information, which present data reported to the FBI concerning law enforcement officers assaulted in the line of duty in 2021, will be released in the fall.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Yosemite officials: 30 park sites vandalized
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/jun/13/yosemite-vandalism-spray-paint-graffiti
GIST	<p>Officials at Yosemite national park are appealing to the public for information and witnesses after more than 30 sites in the park were vandalized with spray paint last month.</p> <p>Park officials are asking anyone who was on the trail to the top of Yosemite Falls on 20 May and who saw people carrying cans of spray paint and tagging the area to contact the National Park Service.</p> <p>Vandals used white and blue spray paint to draw on boulders and other sites along the Yosemite Falls trail, park officials said in a Facebook post on Sunday.</p> <p>At approximately 8.15pm on 20 May, park rangers received reports of vandalism along the trail. When they assessed the damage the next day, they found more than two dozen places where graffiti had been spray-painted, officials said.</p> <p>Photos posted on social media show rocks tagged with the word "Fresno" and other illegible writings. The smallest graffiti measured 1ft by 1ft(30cm by 30cm), but most were 3ft by 3ft and a few were larger than 8ft by 8ft, officials said.</p> <p>A spokesperson for the national park denounced the vandalism as "egregious", SFGate reported. "For someone to take a beautiful area and do this, it's beyond upsetting," Scott Gediman said in a statement to the newspaper.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Toronto van murders; 'incel' jailed for life
SOURCE	https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/jun/13/toronto-van-murders-court-victim-2018-attack
GIST	<p>A self-described "incel" who killed 11 people when he plowed a rented van into a busy Toronto sidewalk in 2018 has been sentenced to life in prison.</p> <p>Alek Minassian – who was motivated by a hatred of women – was convicted in March of 10 counts of first-degree murder and 16 counts of attempted murder, after a judge found that he drove a white rental van on to the sidewalk with the intent to kill.</p> <p>At a hearing on Monday, he was sentenced to 20 years for 15 counts of attempted murder, which are to be served concurrently.</p>

Earlier, the Toronto court heard testimony from witnesses and victims, who recounted the horror of the attack, and their struggles with PTSD in the aftermath.

“My world has changed forever,” said Janet Zhang, after describing the mental suffering she still experiences after her CPR efforts to save a victim were unsuccessful.

First responder Charlene Mackay told the court that she still has panic-inducing triggers and night terrors, which she manages by drinking and not eating well. “I don’t feel like he should have a normal life,” she said of Minassian.

Other victims detailed the extensive and life-altering injuries they incurred during the attack, with which they continue to grapple.

Minassian’s actions took the lives of Renuka Amarasingha, Betty Forsyth, Ji Hun Kim, Dorothy Sewell, Anne Marie D’Amico, So He Chung, Andrea Bradden, Chul Min “Eddie” Kang, Geraldine Brady and Munir Najjar.

An 11th person – Amaresh Tesfamariam – died of her injuries in October last year, and Justice Anne Malloy said on Monday she considered the woman the 11th victim.

The Crown asked that Minassian be given 10 life sentences – to be served concurrently – with parole eligibility after 25 years.

The sentencing recommendation came after last month’s [supreme court of Canada decision](#), which found that consecutive periods of parole ineligibility were unconstitutional and should be seen as cruel and unusual punishment.

That decision was rendered after a court challenge by Alexandre Bissonnette, the man [convicted of six murders](#) and six attempted murders in the 2017 Quebec City mosque shooting.

In his original sentencing, Bissonnette’s parole ineligibility terms were added up consecutively, totalling 150 years – meaning he would die in prison.

After the May 2022 supreme court decision, he now qualifies to apply for parole after 25 years. Based on that decision, so will Minassian.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Large-scale meth trafficking ring charged
SOURCE	https://www.q13fox.com/news/drug-trafficking-organization-charged-for-large-scale-methamphetamine-deals-in-western-washington
GIST	<p>TACOMA, Wash. - Five members of a meth trafficking ring were charged last week in U.S. District Court for seven drug-related felonies, according to U.S. Attorney Nick Brown. Four of the defendants are currently detained, while one remains a fugitive.</p> <p>"These defendants are responsible for huge loads of methamphetamine, which continues to cause death and destruction in our community," said U.S. Attorney Brown.</p> <p>The defendants are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jesus Venegas-Gatica, 35, of Lakewood, Washington• Jose Venegas-Gatica, 34, of Fresno, California• Juan Tolentino-Chino, 33, of Astoria, Oregon• Cristobal Venegas Diaz, 47, of Centralia, Washington• Esteban Martinez-Ortiz, 32, a citizen of Mexico. He is currently on the run and law enforcement is seeking his arrest.

	<p>Three are members of the Venegas family, which has been involved in drug trafficking since at least 2012, according to case records. During the past 10 years, several of the Venegas drug distributors were charged in state court, fled the jurisdiction and returned to trafficking using different names.</p> <p>The current case relates to various large-scale drug deals in Cowlitz, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Pierce and Thurston counties. The Venegas family allegedly transported 20 to 25 kilograms of meth to Washington each month.</p> <p>In May 2022, authorities recovered another 19 kilos of methamphetamine when they searched the homes and cars of several defendants.</p> <p>"This organization was responsible for distributing more than one hundred pounds of methamphetamine in Western Washington," said Jacob D. Galvan, Acting Special Agent in Charge of the Seattle DEA Seattle Field Division. "The DEA, along with its federal, state and local partners will relentlessly pursue drug traffickers to keep our communities safe and healthy, no matter how long it takes."</p> <p>Each defendant faces a mandatory minimum of ten years in prison due to the large amounts of drugs involved.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Kirkland student arrested for online threats
SOURCE	https://www.q13fox.com/news/kirkland-high-school-student-arrested-for-online-threats-police-say
GIST	<p>KIRKLAND, Wash. - Kirkland Police arrested a Juanita High School student for posting threats toward classmates online.</p> <p>Police say on Sunday around 12:45 p.m., several people called to report threats posted on Instagram. There were threats of violence toward students and a picture of a gun, and the suspect allegedly said he would be carrying out violence at the high school in the next week, according to authorities.</p> <p>The Lake Washington School District also reported getting tipped off to the threats.</p> <p>An 18-year-old senior at Juanita High School was identified as the suspect, and was arrested without incident. He was booked into the Kirkland Jail for several counts of harassment, and was barred from going onto Lake Washington School District properties. The suspect's parents promised he would not have access to any firearms going forward, police say.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Timeline: what happened in Coeur d'Alene
SOURCE	https://www.krem.com/article/news/crime/coeur-d-alene-patriot-front-what-we-know/293-24e67cfa-84e0-428c-99b7-56f4af9a7da6
GIST	<p>COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — 31 men with ties to a national hate group were arrested on Saturday afternoon, blocks away from the Pride in the Park event in Coeur d'Alene. Police found the men hiding inside a U-haul truck after someone spotted them loading up and called to report what "looked like a little army."</p> <p>Police said they recovered evidence that the group was planning to riot in downtown Coeur d'Alene. All 31 men were arrested on charges of conspiracy to riot.</p> <p>Those arrested come from 13 states, including Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Michigan, Alabama, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, South Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas.</p> <p>Here's what we know about what happened in Coeur d'Alene:</p> <p>Latest Developments Monday, June 13</p>

Newly filed Kootenai County court documents detail how much planning and coordination went into the group's attempt to disturb the peace in Coeur d'Alene.

KREM 2 was able to confirm from court documents police seized three vehicles: the U-haul where the men were found, a Ford Ranger and a red Camry.

Coeur d'Alene Police identified the passenger of the U-haul as Thomas Rousseau, who is also the founder of Patriot Front. Officers found several typed documents on him, according to court documents.

One document discussed the group being there to "raise a voice against the moral depravity, which permits events such as this to take place."

Timeline

Saturday, June 11, 1:38 p.m.: Initial call made to 9-1-1

Police were alerted to the group when [a concerned person called police around 1:38 p.m.](#) That person reported seeing the group loading into a U-haul that was parked at the Springhill Suites. The group had masks and shields and police said the caller told them it "looked like a little army."

Saturday, June 11, 1:48 p.m.: Police spot U-haul truck, arrest 31 men

Police spotted the U-haul and [stopped it on Northwest Boulevard](#) near the skate park and Paul Bunyan, not far from the area where a Coeur d'Alene Pride event was taking place. Police had stepped up their presence in the area during the event.

Police and deputies surrounded the truck and when they opened it up they found dozens of men in the back, all wearing the same clothes, including khakis, with navy blue shirts, beige hats, and a white cloth covering their faces.

Based on evidence collected at the scene and documents police found in the U-haul, Chief White said that they believe the group was planning to riot in several areas of downtown Coeur d'Alene, not just the park.

All 31 men were arrested on charges of conspiracy to riot, a misdemeanor.

Sunday, June 12: Names of 31 men released

According to the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office (KCSO), by Sunday afternoon all 31 men had bonded out of the Kootenai County Jail. Their names are as follows:

- Mishael Joshua Buster - 22 from Spokane, WA
- Jared Michael Boyce - 27 from Soringville, UT
- Nathan David Brenner - 26 from Lewisville, CO
- Colton Michael Brown - 23 from Rovendale, WA
- Josiah Daniel Buster - 24 from Watauga, TX
- Devin Wayne Center - 22 from Fayetteville, AR
- Dylan Carter Corio - 21 from Cheyenne, WY
- Winston North Durham - 21 from Genesse, ID
- Joseph Garret Garland - 23 from Freeburg, IL
- Branden Mitchel Haney - 35 from Kaysville, UT
- Richard Jacob Jessop - 21 from Idaho Falls, ID
- James Michael Johnson - 36 from Concrete, WA
- James Julius Johnson - 40 from Sioux Falls, SD
- Connor Patrick Moran - 23 from Watauga, TX
- Kieran Padraig Morris - 27 from Haslet, TX
- Lawrence Alexander Norman - 32 from Prospect, OR
- Justin Michael Oleary - 27 from Des Moines, WA
- Cameron Kathan Pruitt - 23 from Midway, UT
- Forrest Clark Rankin - 28 from Wheat Ridge, CO
- [Thomas Ryan Rousseau - 23 from Grape Vine, TX](#) (Founder of Patriot Front)
- Conor James Ryan - 23 - from Thornton, CO

- Spencer Thomas Simpson - 20 from Ellensburg, WA
- Alexander Nikolai Sisenstein - 27 from Midvale, UT
- Derek Joseph Smith - 24 from Sioux Falls, SD
- Dakota Ray Tabler - 29 from West Valley City, UT
- Steven Derrick Tucker - 30 from Haslet, TX
- Wesley Evan Van Horn - 34 from Lexington, AL
- Mitchell Frederick Wagner - 24 from Florissant, MO
- Nathaniel Taylor Whitfield - 24 from Elk Ridge, UT
- Graham Jones Whitsom - 31 from Haslet, TX
- Robert Benjamin Whitted - 22 from Conroe, TX

Monday, June 13: All 31 men do not appear in court

Court appearances were scheduled for Monday afternoon for each of the 31 men, but KREM 2 confirmed Monday morning that all men will not appear since they bonded out. According to the Kootenai County Jail Inmate Roster, each man's bond was set at \$300, as they were all charged with misdemeanors.

All 31 men have until June 30 to contact the court and set up a court date.

KREM 2 learned that Mishael Buster, the 22-year-old from Spokane, will appear in district court on July 18, 2022 at 1 p.m.

Monday, June 13, 11 a.m.

Coeur d'Alene Police Chief Lee White and Mayor Jim Hammond held a [press conference on Monday](#) morning to discuss the [arrest of 31 men](#) with ties to the white nationalist hate group, Patriot Front. White also spoke about the arrest and gave minor details regarding the investigation into the incident.

During his comments, White said the police department has been receiving death threats through online comments.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Snohomish Co. school shooting; no injuries
SOURCE	https://www.kiro7.com/news/local/deputies-investigating-shooting-mariner-high-school-parking-lot/FOMPDYS7BVE6JIDCHYD2F4M74U/
GIST	<p>SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. — Snohomish County deputies are investigating a shooting at Mariner High School, which prompted a brief lockdown of all after-school activities on Monday afternoon.</p> <p>The shooting occurred in the parking lot of the school, deputies said in a tweet at 3:35 p.m.</p> <p>No injuries were reported.</p> <p>Deputies said a juvenile fired shots at a vehicle and ran away.</p> <p>Law enforcement searched for the shooter but he was not found.</p> <p>Deputies believe the shooter knew the person being targeted.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 No double jeopardy tribal, federal courts
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation-politics/supreme-court-rules-against-navajo-nation-member/
GIST	WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Monday that Native Americans prosecuted in certain tribal courts can also be prosecuted based on the same incident in federal court, which can result in longer sentences.

The 6-3 ruling is in keeping with an earlier ruling from the 1970s that said the same about a more widely used type of tribal court.

The case before the justices involved a Navajo Nation member, Merle Denezpi, accused of rape. He served nearly five months in jail after being charged with assault and battery in what is called a Court of Indian Offenses, a court that deals exclusively with alleged Native American offenders.

Under federal law Courts of Indian Offenses can only impose sentences of generally up to a year. Denezpi was later prosecuted in federal court and sentenced to 30 years in prison. He said the Constitution's "Double Jeopardy" clause should have barred the second prosecution.

But the justices disagreed.

"Denezpi's single act led to separate prosecutions for violations of a tribal ordinance and a federal statute. Because the Tribe and the Federal Government are distinct sovereigns, those" offenses are not the same, Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote for a majority of the court. "Denezpi's second prosecution therefore did not offend the Double Jeopardy Clause."

The Biden administration had argued for that result as had several states, which said barring federal prosecutions in similar cases could allow defendants to escape harsh sentences.

In a dissent, Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote that the case involved the same "defendant, same crime, same prosecuting authority" and said the majority's reasoning was "at odds with the text and original meaning of the Constitution." The conservative Gorsuch was joined in dissent by two of the court's three liberal justices, Justice Sonia Sotomayor and Justice Elena Kagan.

The case before the justices involves a tribal court system that has become increasingly rare over the last century. Courts of Indian Offenses were created in the late 1800s during a period when the federal government's policy toward Native Americans was to encourage assimilation. Judges and generally prosecutors are appointed by federal officials.

Federal policy toward Native Americans shifted in the mid-1930s, however, to emphasize a greater respect for tribes' native ways. As part of that, the government has encouraged tribes to create their own tribal courts, and the number of Courts of Indian Offenses has steadily decreased. Today there are five regional Courts of Indian Offenses that serve 16 tribes in Colorado, Oklahoma, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. They are generally tribes with a small number of members or limited resources. Nationwide there are more than 570 federally recognized tribes.

The court said in 1978 that the Double Jeopardy clause did not bar the federal government from prosecuting a Native person in federal court after a tribal court prosecution, so the only question for the court this time was whether the rule should be different for Courts of Indian Offenses, which are sometimes called CFR courts because they have their basis in the Code of Federal Regulations.

In July 2017, Denezpi traveled with a female member of the Navajo Nation to Towaoc, Colorado, which is a part of the Ute Mountain Ute Reservation. While there, Denezpi raped the woman.

Denezpi was first charged in a Court of Indian Offenses with assault and battery, among other things. He eventually agreed to a so-called Alford plea in the case, not admitting guilt but acknowledging that prosecutors had enough evidence that he would likely be convicted at trial. He was sentenced to time served, 140 days in jail. His prosecution in federal court followed.

A lawyer for Denezpi did not immediately return an email seeking comment following the decision.

The case is Merle Denezpi v. United States, 20-7622.

HEADLINE	06/13 Seattle high school bomb threat; dismissal
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/education/lab/bomb-threat-causes-early-dismissal-at-roosevelt-high/
GIST	<p>Students and staff at Roosevelt High School were dismissed early Monday because of a bomb threat.</p> <p>The threat was not considered credible, Seattle Public Schools officials confirmed. Seattle police did a sweep and did not find a bomb or other weapons.</p> <p>The school was put on a shelter-in-place alert around 11 a.m. after someone phoned in the threat, district officials said.</p> <p>Students were released between 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 p.m., according to an email the district sent to Roosevelt families. School buses and other transportation services were sent to the school to pick up students early.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Coeur d'Alene police receive death threats
SOURCE	https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/coeur-dalene-police-receive-death-threats-for-arresting-patriot-front-members/
GIST	<p>Idaho made international headlines over the weekend when 31 masked members of a white nationalist group were arrested in Coeur d'Alene.</p> <p>In a news conference Monday, police Chief Lee White provided a handful of new details and said the department had received death threats over the arrests.</p> <p>After a caller said he had seen men “looking like a little army,” police found the members of the Patriot Front inside a U-Haul truck during a traffic stop Saturday, according to The Spokesman-Review. They were arrested on suspicion of conspiring to riot at the North Idaho city’s Pride in the Park event. The U-Haul was found to contain riot gear and at least one smoke grenade.</p> <p>But more questions remained. White said he didn’t know whom the riot was meant to target or why Coeur d’Alene was chosen as the site of the riot, and he declined to comment on whether firearms were found on the men.</p> <p>The police department received 149 phone calls Monday morning about the arrests, including one from as far away as Norway, White said. He said they were a “50/50 split,” between local calls of support for the police and anonymous angry calls from those upset about the arrests.</p> <p>White confirmed that users on far-right social media platforms have doxxed Coeur d’Alene officers, publicly identifying them and publishing personal information about them online.</p> <p>“The other 50%, who are completely anonymous, who want nothing more than to scream and yell at us and use really choice words, offered death threats against myself and other members of the police department merely for doing our jobs,” White said.</p> <p>At least one person who was not a member of the media showed up to Monday’s conference to falsely claim the group detailed by police were actually members of the FBI. His words echoed a conspiracy theory that has been making its way around the internet. White quickly shut down the accusation.</p> <p>“To be very clear here, these were not law enforcement officers that we arrested,” White said. “These were members of the hate group Patriot Front.”</p> <p>Mayor Jim Hammond, who was sworn into office in January, also took the podium in his first news conference as mayor. He brought up Coeur d’Alene’s history of once being home to a neo-Nazi compound, insisting that the city had since become a place that “respects and welcomes everyone.”</p>

	<p>The Patriot Front is described as a “white nationalist hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center that branched off the group that was involved in the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, which killed one demonstrator. The Patriot Front has a manifesto that has called for preserving the U.S. as a white state.</p> <p>The Anti-Defamation League described it as a white supremacist group that regularly “uses social media to promote racism, antisemitism and intolerance.”</p> <p>Only two of those arrested Saturday were from Idaho, according to Kootenai County Jail records.</p> <p>“We are not a city that wants to discriminate,” Hammond said. “We are not a city who wishes to bring any hurt upon anyone. It’s important because Coeur d’Alene has experienced that before. We’re not going back to the days of the Aryan Nations. We are past that. And we will do everything we can to make sure that we continue to stay past those kinds of problems.”</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Feds charge 3 Puyallup men in Capitol riot
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/article262475352.html
GIST	<p>Three men from Puyallup were charged in federal court Monday with misdemeanors in connection to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the U.S. Capitol, according to court documents.</p> <p>FBI agents identified cell phone data and surveillance footage that put Kevin M. Cronin and his sons Kevin M. Cronin II and Dylan R. Cronin in and around the U.S. Capitol building during the attack, court documents show. All three face federal charges related to demonstrating in a Capitol building and engaging in conduct that disrupts government business, while Dylan Cronin also is accused of destroying government property and committing violence on Capitol grounds.</p> <p>The Cronins were brought into Magistrate Judge Theresa Fricke’s courtroom consecutively Monday. Dylan Cronin was the last to appear.</p> <p>“He’s the one that actually broke, using a piece of lumber to break glass,” Assistant U.S. Attorney Erika Evans said of Dylan Cronin in court Monday. “He climbed through a window adjacent to the glass that he broke, to breach and go inside the Capitol building.”</p> <p>Police arrested the men in Puyallup on Monday and a federal judge ordered them released from custody after an initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Tacoma. They did not enter any pleadings and further proceedings will be held in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.</p> <p>Each man faces multiple years in prison and thousands of dollars in fines if convicted on all charges.</p> <p>Fricke ordered the men not to travel to Washington, D.C., without permission and store any weapons they own with a third party.</p> <p>Kevin M. Cronin II was a member of the Washington National Guard and Dylan Cronin is an Army reservist, court documents show. Their father, Kevin M. Cronin, is a U.S. Postal Service employee.</p> <p>Kevin M. Cronin II was discharged from the Washington National Guard in August 2021, according to a spokesperson.</p> <p>The U.S. Army Reserve and USPS did not immediately respond to requests to confirm the employment statuses of Dylan Cronin and Kevin M. Cronin.</p> <p>Travel records showed all three men flew to Washington, D.C., from Seattle on Jan. 5, 2021, and returned on Jan. 8, according to court documents. Surveillance footage showed all three men in multiple locations inside the U.S. Capitol building, while news media and social media images showed them at a political rally that preceded the riot, court documents say.</p>

The Cronin brothers both wore “Make America Great Again” hats and their father had on a “Trump 2020” hat.

CRONINS AT THE U.S. CAPITOL

Three men investigators believe to be the Cronins were first seen on surveillance footage outside the Capitol building’s northwest staircase shortly after 2 p.m., according to court documents.

Video then showed someone resembling Dylan Cronin kicking a Senate Wing exterior door and using a piece of lumber to break a glass pane on a nearby window.

Within a minute, video footage showed someone believed to be Dylan Cronin entering the Capitol building through a window pane next to the one he broke, charging documents show.

Once inside, the man was captured on surveillance video meeting up with Kevin M. Cronin II near the Senate Wing door, with their father entering through the door shortly thereafter.

Surveillance footage showed all three men leaving the building after smoking cigarettes and only two people resembling the Cronin brothers returning inside, according to court documents. Video tracked the two younger men traveling to multiple areas of the building.

Just before 2:40 p.m., video footage showed a person resembling Kevin M. Cronin II leaving through a broken window on the Senate Wing, court documents say.

Police body-worn camera footage captured the man resembling Dylan Cronin inside the Capitol building just before 3 p.m. All three men were sighted on video footage at a northwest terrace of the U.S. Capitol grounds around 4:30 p.m., according to charging documents.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Lawmaker office in Olympia vandalized
SOURCE	https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/state/washington/article262482707.html
GIST	<p>Two men smashed a window before tossing a lit flare into the Olympia office of state Rep. Andrew Barkis, R-Lacey, early Monday morning. The House Republican campaign offices are also in the same building.</p> <p>Ring video footage posted to Twitter by Barkis’ seatmate House Minority Leader Rep. J.T. Wilcox, R-Yelm, showed two individuals approaching the building around 4 a.m. One of them wearing dark clothing and a mask then smashes the window with a hammer before the other individual drops a flare into the building. The second person is seen wearing cargo shorts and using his sweater to cover his face.</p> <p>In the tweet, Wilcox said the building is fine because the flare “landed on a masonry floor.”</p> <p>Wilcox told McClatchy Monday that neither he nor Barkis believe it was random vandalism because he thinks a hammer and a flare aren’t just something people have with them. Wilcox said they are unsure why they were targeted.</p> <p>Another incident last week is concerning for Wilcox, he said. Last Friday a shooting occurred outside the home of Rep. Peter Abbarno, a Republican from Centralia. Wilcox does not believe the incidents are connected and he does not believe the shooting was directed at Abbarno.</p> <p>Both incidents have been reported to the Washington State Patrol. The Olympia Police Department was also contacted about Monday’s incident.</p> <p>Wilcox said he sent an email out to his colleagues to tell them to keep an eye out for their families right now. He said he informed his legislative assistant as well as the House Republican Chief of Staff to be aware of the situation.</p>

	“Two out of 41 people having a felony committed in front of them or their property seems a little odd for five days,” he said.
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HEADLINE	06/14 Drugs back in EU: ‘everywhere, everyone’
SOURCE	https://apnews.com/article/covid-health-european-union-1d113d1c74f601123530ddb4f7b1487a
GIST	<p>BRUSSELS (AP) — Drug trafficking and use across the European Union are returning to pre-pandemic levels, according to the latest report published by the bloc’s drug agency on Tuesday.</p> <p>As COVID-19 restrictions and increased border controls have been relaxed on the continent, the EMCDDA said drugs are available in large quantities in the region, and in some cases above pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Hundreds of drug production laboratories are being dismantled, and new psychoactive substances are appearing in the bloc every week. In 2021, 52 new drugs were reported for the first time, the agency said.</p> <p>“For me, the take-home message that stands out from our analysis of drug trends in 2022 can be summarized as ‘Everywhere. Everything. Everyone,’” said the agency director, Alexis Goosdeel.</p> <p>About 83.4 million people aged 15-64 in the EU, or 29% of that population, are estimated to have ever used an illicit drug, with more men than women reporting use.</p> <p>The agency said cannabis remains the most popular substance, with over 22 million people reporting its use in 2021, ahead of cocaine, MDMA and amphetamines. Some 1 million Europeans used heroin or another illicit opioid. An estimated 5,800 overdose deaths occurred in the EU in 2020, the most recent year for which that figure was provided.</p> <p>The report pointed to an increased use of social media applications and encrypted messaging services to get access to products during the pandemic, a model that is likely to persist.</p> <p>The agency said last month that record amounts of cocaine are being seized in Europe while manufacturing of the drug is now taking place inside the the EU.</p> <p>While the agency said it’s too early to assess the impact on heroin trafficking of the return to power of the Taliban in Afghanistan, the agency noted it could lead to an increase. According to the report, poppy cultivation continues in the country despite a ban on production and sale.</p> <p>“The country’s current financial problems might make drug revenues a more important source of income,” the report said.</p> <p>The report also looked at the war in Ukraine, noting that the conflict could have consequences for smuggling routes.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Idaho sheriff: Patriot Front planned to riot
SOURCE	https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/13/us/patriot-front-beliefs-history-explainer/index.html
GIST	<p>When “a little army” of men with shields and other riot gear was spotted near a Pride parade in Idaho on Saturday, authorities soon linked the men to a relatively new White nationalist group and charged them with conspiracy to riot.</p> <p>“It is clear to us based on the gear that the individuals had with them, the stuff they had in their possession, the U-Haul with them along with paperwork that was seized from them, that they came to riot downtown,” Coeur d’Alene Police Chief Lee White said.</p>

Among those arrested was Thomas Ryan Rousseau – the [leader of Patriot Front](#), the sheriff’s office said. In total, [31 people from at least 12 states were arrested](#) and charged with conspiracy to riot. All have been released on bond.

Most of the men arrested had logos on their hats “consistent with the Patriot Front group,” and some had other clothing associated with the White supremacist group, White said.

Here’s what we know about Patriot Front – and what makes it different from other groups:

How did Patriot Front start?

Patriot Front “is a white nationalist hate group that [formed in the aftermath of the deadly ‘Unite the Right’ rally](#) in Charlottesville, Virginia,” the Southern Poverty Law Center said.

“The organization broke off from Vanguard America (VA), a neo-Nazi group that participated in the chaotic demonstration,” the SPLC said.

The rally turned deadly with the [killing of anti-racism demonstrator Heather Heyer](#). Later that month, Rousseau – who [led Vanguard America members](#) at “Unite the Right” – [rebranded the group’s website and launched a new group called Patriot Front](#), the Anti-Defamation League said.

What do Patriot Front members believe?

“Patriot Front is a white supremacist group whose members maintain that their ancestors conquered America and bequeathed it to them, and no one else,” [the ADL said](#).

“Patriot Front justifies its ideology of hate and intolerance under the guise of preserving the ethnic and cultural origins of its members’ European ancestors.”

The group’s manifesto claims those in America who are not of European ancestry are not truly American.

“An African may have lived, worked, and even been classed as a citizen in America for centuries, yet he is not American. He is, as he likely prefers to be labeled, an African in America,” Patriot Front’s website said.

“The same rule applies to others who are not of the founding stock of our people, or do not share the common unconscious that permeates throughout our greater civilization, and the European diaspora.”

Who is Patriot Front’s leader?

Rousseau, who grew up in suburban Dallas, [founded Patriot Front when he was a teenager](#), according to the SPLC.

“While working for his high school newspaper, Rousseau frequently wrote opinion columns in support of conservative topics including the controversial ‘campus carry’ law in Texas and North Carolina’s since gutted ‘bathroom bill.’ He was also an ardent supporter of Donald Trump during the 2016 election,” [the SPLC said](#).

“Under Rousseau’s direct leadership, Patriot Front’s Texas chapter is its most active – relying mostly on flyering, banner drops and occasionally demonstrations. When the organization ventures off the internet, its activities are primarily conducted in the dead of night, anonymously.”

After the arrests in Idaho on Saturday, CNN reached out to the Patriot Front and people believed to be associated with Rousseau but did not immediately hear back.

What are the goals of Patriot Front?

“I think when you look at the past actions of the Patriot Front, they’re varied,” former FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok told CNN on Monday.

“A lot of what they do is designed for image – for creating propaganda that they can use to spread their message to recruit more followers,” Strzok said.

“So in the past, what we’ve seen from a lot of their activities (is) not so much intent on engaging in violence as much as engaging in protests. Certainly, hateful speech, for sure, but this is much more a group that’s designed for image and for creating a public spectacle.”

But Strzok said there’s always a key question with such groups: “Is there a trigger point where their intention is to move from simply protesting to violence?”

He said it’s not clear what may have happened at the Pride parade in Idaho.

“The real question in my mind is their intention for what they were going to do that day,” Strzok said.

How is Patriot Front different from other White nationalist or White supremacist groups?

Members of Patriot Front are “comparatively young,” Strzok said.

“A central tactic to Patriot Front is ‘flash demonstrations’ – privately planned and unannounced events that allow groups to promote their beliefs while limiting the risk of individual exposure, negative media coverage, arrests and public backlash,” [the ADL said](#).

“These flash demonstrations are mainly orchestrated for a quick photo and video opportunity that is then turned into online content.”

And Patriot Front “has declined to participate in large rallies with other hate groups, [preferring instead to work with small, local chapters that allow Patriot Front to remain the center of attention](#) while controlling their message and presentation,” the SPLC said.

Strzok said he’s worried the country might be in a new phase of extremism.

“I think there’s certainly a lot of personal grievances out there across America. And what particularly concerns me right now is you see a lot of people – both political leaders as well as some in the media – who are tacitly encouraging not violence, but certainly these extremist beliefs,” the former FBI official said.

“Whether it’s [replacement theory](#), which plays into a lot of the White nationalist propaganda, whether it’s political figures using images of violence, I think that’s encouraging or accepting behavior that in the past we had moved away from,” Strzok said. “So I am worried that people who are inclined to violence ... might be driven to violence.”

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HEADLINE	06/13 Suspect cites ‘SPD illegally chasing me’
SOURCE	https://www.yahoo.com/news/alleged-seattle-hostage-taker-cites-055650773.html
GIST	<p>A kidnapping suspect called Seattle police officers during a chase, telling them a newly passed Democratic law prevented them from pursuing him, new audio shows.</p> <p>Isaac Sissel called the Seattle Police Department after allegedly taking his girlfriend and her cat hostage last month to warn them they were participating in "an illegal pursuit" and were "not supposed" to chase him, according to new 911 audio obtained by the Jason Rantz Show on KTTH.</p> <p>"SPD is illegally chasing me over I don't know what," Sissel said to the 911 operator, per the recording. "It's an illegal pursuit... they're not supposed to be able to chase."</p> <p>When the operator suggested Sissel pull over and speak with the officers, the suspect made an apparent reference to House Bill 1054 as the reason for them being unable to pursue him.</p>

"It is an illegal pursuit and my license is suspended, and this is an illegal pursuit ... They're not supposed to be able to pursue," the suspect reiterated, KTTH reported.

"Make sure they stop chasing us," Sissel said in the recording, speaking on behalf of the female in the vehicle, per the report.

While the suspect names "1074" on the call, he appears to be referencing House Bill 1054, which cleared the Democratic-controlled legislature last year amid other law enforcement reform measures.

The legislation restricts how [police and law enforcement officers](#) respond to an incident, including a change that affects how officers "pursue after a suspect who is fleeing in a vehicle," the Pierce County government said.

"Law enforcement officers will only be able to engage in a pursuit if there is 'probable cause' to arrest a person in the vehicle for committing a specified violent crime or sex offense," the government said.

It added: "Law enforcement can no longer pursue after vehicles for any traffic offenses with the exception of [Vehicular Assault](#), [Vehicular Homicide](#), and Driving Under the Influence."

The law, which went into effect July 25, 2021, also prevents officers from using tear gas, certain defensive tactics, and the use of some equipment.

The legislation appears to allow officers to pursue suspects who commit kidnapping, so it is not immediately clear if the law applied to the situation.

The suspect and the victim had a longstanding relationship, that included routine episodes of abuse, according to a police incident report.

The victim also provided police with private recordings of the suspect threatening her life and the life of her pet cat.

"Officers listened to a recording on [the victim's] phone recorded on 5/8/22 where Isaac states the following: 'I'll stop threatening to kill you if-(recording cuts off)...Your life is not worth more than my car...I would have killed that cat if it were up to me...'" the incident report said.

"[The victim] stated Isaac threatens to kill her approximately 10 times a day. [She] stated Isaac threatens to kill her by shooting her and running her over. [She] stated she was afraid for her life when Isaac made these statements," it added, per KTTH.

He also regularly evades police, per the incident report, often citing the new law.

According to charging documents, the suspect was previously sentenced for eluding police and criminal mischief with a weapon.

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HEADLINE	06/13 Mexico troops find 50 meth labs in June
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/mexican-soldiers-finds-50-meth-labs-half-june-85371670
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Mexican soldiers found a total of 50 meth labs in the first two weeks of June, Mexico's army said Monday.</p> <p>The small labs were mainly located in low woods around the state of Sinaloa, home to the cartel of the same name.</p> <p>The army said in a statement that in just three days, June 10-12, troops found 19 labs in Sinaloa.</p>

	<p>The soldiers seized almost a thousand drums or plastic containers with chemicals. They also found a total of 32 52-gallon (200-liter) chemical reaction chambers, or cookers, used to produce methamphetamine.</p> <p>Mexican cartels export tons of extremely pure meth to the United States each year, sometimes in liquid form.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 Mexico port: 20 freight containers stolen
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/thieves-make-off-20-freight-containers-mexican-port-85368798
GIST	<p>MEXICO CITY -- Thieves broke into a freight storage area at the Pacific coast seaport of Manzanillo and stole 20 freight containers loaded with partly refined gold and silver ore and television sets, the Mexican Employers Federation said Monday.</p> <p>José Medina Mora, president of the federation, said the large-scale robbery was a sign of rising crime in Mexico.</p> <p>“There is a growing lack of safety, and this is a sign of what is happening in the country and it requires that authorities take action,” Medina Mora said.</p> <p>The state of Colima, where Manzanillo is, has not officially commented on the June 5 robbery.</p> <p>But Horacio Duarte, the head of Mexico's customs service, confirmed the robbery and said organized crime was involved.</p> <p>“This was a very serious organized crime operation,” Duarte said.</p> <p>According to local press reports, about 10 armed thieves forced their way into a private freight dispatch yard near the port, subdued employees and then took several hours to search for the shipping containers they wanted.</p> <p>The thieves then apparently hooked up the containers to trucks and drove away with them. No sign of the containers, or their contents, has been seen since.</p> <p>Freight theft is a serious problem in Mexico, but it usually involves thieves hijacking one truck at a time on highways — not driving off with 20 freight containers.</p> <p>Articles like television sets are usually quickly sold off in the country's extensive black markets, but it was unclear where thieves could sell tons of partly processed gold or silver ore. Any refiner would be likely to ask questions about where it came from.</p> <p>Prosecutors and police in Colima have had a more pressing problem on their hands, with residents blocking roads to protest kidnapping and killing of local people. Two police officers have also been shot to death so far this month in the state, which has been dominated by the Jalisco drug cartel.</p>
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HEADLINE	06/13 TX camp staff save children from gunman
SOURCE	https://abcnews.go.com/US/quick-thinking-staffers-save-camp-children-suspected-gunman/story?id=85369779
GIST	<p>Police shot and killed a suspect Monday morning after he entered an athletic complex where summer camp was taking place in Duncanville, Texas, allegedly armed with a handgun, authorities said.</p> <p>No children were harmed after camp staffers ushered them to safety when the man entered the building.</p>

Police exchanged gunfire with the suspect at the Duncanville Fieldhouse within minutes of arriving at the scene, Duncanville Mayor Barry Gordon said, according to ABC Dallas affiliate WFAA.

"Our officers did not hesitate," Gordon said. "They did what they were trained to do and saved lives."

The summer camp for 4- to 14-year-olds has an average attendance of more than 250 campers and staff, the Duncanville Police Department said in a statement.

A camp counselor confronted the suspected gunman in the lobby of the indoor sports and fitness center.

Upon hearing the gunshots in the lobby, staff members moved the kids to a safe area and locked the doors, preventing the suspected gunman from getting inside, Duncanville Assistant Police Chief Matthew Stogner said.

"[He] did fire one round inside the classroom where there were children inside," Stogner said. "Fortunately, no one was injured."

Police arrived on the scene at 8:45 a.m. -- two minutes after receiving calls -- and began a search, locating the suspect "quickly" and exchanging gunfire, authorities said. The suspect, who has not been identified, was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The camp and Fieldhouse followed lockdown procedures, police said, adding: "Due to the clear-headed actions of staff and the quick response time of law enforcement, there were no additional injuries."

Uvalde school police chief defends Texas shooting response

Stogner praised the police officers for quickly dealing with the situation and utilizing their active shooter training.

The incident comes weeks after 19 kids and two teachers were killed in a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Uvalde law enforcement has been heavily criticized for their handling of the May 24 shooting, which included waiting for more than an hour to confront the suspected gunman while students were inside.

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